

Senegalese troops kill 300 separatists

DAKAR (AFP) — Senegalese troops killed at least 300 suspected armed rebels Sunday in Senegal's southern Casamance province, reliable sources said here Tuesday. Two soldiers were killed and six injured in Sunday's operation, which took place in the Oussouye region not far from the border with Guinea-Bissau, the sources added. However, there was no official confirmation of the casualty toll. The army had taken up positions in the region, a stronghold of the radical armed wing of the Casamance Movement of Democratic Forces (MFDC), when it was attacked by more than 300 rebels. The troops returned fire with support from the air force, dividing and trapping the rebel forces and preventing them from falling back into Guinea-Bissau territory. The operation was the bloodiest clash in the troubled province since separatists began their armed campaign in 1982. It came 11 days after Father Augustin Diamacoune Senghor, leader of the breakaway armed wing of the MFDC, called on the separatists to "cease fire and lay down their arms" in a radio broadcast. The charismatic priest, a former partisan of "total and immediate independence," was in the province's capital Ziguinchor after eight months' exile in Guinea-Bissau.

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Crown Prince condoles Turkey

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Tuesday called at the Turkish embassy in Amman to offer condolences over the death of President Turgut Ozal. Jordan will be represented at the funeral of Mr. Ozal in Ankara by Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd and Labour Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabarti. The delegation arrived in Ankara Tuesday. The funeral will be held Wednesday. Turkish Prime Minister Suleiman Demirel received the delegation.

Arafat, Sharif Zeid stuck in elevator

AMMAN (AFP) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker were forced into 10 minutes of private talks on Tuesday after their elevator jammed in the premier's building. "We tried to continue our conversation," said Mr. Arafat as he emerged smiling from the elevator, after security forces and technicians lowered it manually. Mr. Arafat has survived far more threatening situations, including a plane crash in the Libyan desert on April 7, 1992.

Tunisia to send aid to Palestinians

TUNIS (R) — Tunisia announced plans Tuesday to send relief aid to Palestinians in the sealed-off Israeli-occupied territories. The government, ruling party and press relayed an appeal from President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali to gather food, medicines and clothes to be sent to the Gaza Strip and West Bank. Radio appeals said the aid would be collected at Red Crescent or state-run social solidarity fund centres. Schools and universities were also helping with the appeal. Tunisia did not say how it intended to deliver the aid.

Clinton orders probe of Waco siege

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bill Clinton Tuesday said that cult leader David Koresh "bears ultimate responsibility" for the heavy loss of life at his private compound at the end of a 51-day siege. "He killed those he controlled," the president said. Mr. Clinton ordered an investigation and said that as president, he bears full responsibility for the actions of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and other federal agents. He said he was briefed on plans to increase pressure on Mr. Koresh and his followers and told attorney General Janet Reno "to do what she thought was right." Mr. Clinton described Mr. Koresh as "dangerous, irrational and probably insane." (See page 8).

Syrian transport minister arrives

AMMAN (Petra) — Syrian Transport Minister Mufted Abdul Karim Tuesday arrived here on a four-day official visit to Jordan. In an arrival statement at Ramtha border point, Mr. Abdul Karim said his visit was aimed at holding talks with Deputy Prime Minister and Transport Minister Ali Suhaimy on bilateral relations and means of further enhancing cooperation in the transport sector. Mr. Abdul Karim will attend meetings of the general assembly of the Jordanian Syrian Land Transport Company and the Syrian Jordanian Maritime Transport Company, which will be held in Amman.

S. African accuses Israel of racism

SYDNEY (AFP) — Israel's treatment of Palestinians in the occupied territories was the same as the racist treatment of blacks in South Africa, a delegate at a United Nations conference of racism charged here Tuesday. Dumisa Nsebeza, past president of the Black Lawyers Association of South Africa, told the conference that former Ugandan President Idi Amin's contention that Zionism was racism was not wrong. Both the Palestinians in the occupied territories and black communities in South Africa had been excluded under the laws of racist governments, he said.

Decision on peace talks expected today

Intense inter-Palestinian consultations held in Amman as Arab officials wait in Damascus

Arafat holds talks with Prince Hassan, says Jordan says Damascus meeting will reflect comprehensive Arab assessment

Mubarak sends message to King through Musa

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat Tuesday held extensive talks with Jordanian leaders and Palestinian peace negotiators seeking a way to resume Palestinian participation in the Middle East peace process. A decision to attend the talks, however, is expected Wednesday.

Mr. Arafat, who held talks with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa — who also delivered to him a message from President Hosni Mubarak — was having extended discussions late Tuesday with members of the Palestinian delegation to the peace negotiations.

Palestinian sources said Mr. Arafat was facing immense pressure from some of the delegates who were demanding explicit Israeli and American undertakings before agreeing to return to the negotiating table.

The sources said the delegates were arguing that in the absence of such undertakings, it would be very difficult for them to make the Palestinian constituency in the occupied territories to accept Palestinian participation in the

peace talks.

"They are saying that they could not very well go back to their constituents and tell them the bottom lines of the Americans and Israelis were nowhere near the minimum requirements of the peace process and Palestinian participation," said one of the sources.

"They are demanding something more tangible in terms of American assurances and Israeli undertakings, particularly in view of the (three-week-old) closure of the occupied territories," said the source, who preferred anonymity.

As Mr. Arafat remained closeted with the delegates in Amman's International Hotel's rooftop restaurant, the foreign ministers and senior officials of Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and the PLO awaited the outcome of the discussions which would determine Arab participation in the ninth round of bilateral negotiations with Israel.

At April 20, the date originally set for round nine of the peace talks to commence, drew to a close. Palestinian sources said American "assurances" that "things would fall in place for the Palestinians" as soon as they said the "magic yes" to return to the talks were not enough to justify a return to the peace talks. But, they added, Arab pressure had left no choice for the Palestinians but to attend the talks, now tentatively set for April 27.

"It was not the American pressure nor the Israeli intrigues that twisted the hand of chairman Arafat," said one of the sources, adding:

"Heavy pressure was applied on Mr. Arafat in Cairo and Latakia (in Syria where Mr. Arafat met with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad Sunday)."

The source, a member of Mr. Arafat's "inner circle," was speaking to the Jordan Times in a telephone interview from Tunis hours before Mr. Arafat met with the Palestinian negotiators in Amman.

The peace talks went into limbo after Israel expelled more than 400 Palestinians to Lebanon in December and the Palestinian delegation, guided by the PLO, demanded their immediate repatriation. Since then, the Palestinians have, however, softened their stand to accept a phased return of the expelled but are seeking more substantial assurances related to the core issues on the negotiating table and the situation on the ground in the occupied territories.

"There was an American promise of adherence to the letter of assurances and the Israelis were expected to come up with some sort of a statement saying that expulsion is not a policy and is only used in cases where security issues are at stake," said the PLO sources on condition of anonymity.

Mr. Arafat's decision to announce Palestinian attendance of round nine in Washington is linked to Arab pressure to go and the overtures made by Saudi Arabia's Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal to resume financial support to both the PLO and the people in the occupied territories. Palestinians close to the

(Continued on page 5)

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, said Tuesday Arab governments and the Palestinian leadership were conducting a comprehensive assessment of the current Arab situation with a view to preempting any future criticism that they "abandoned historical responsibilities."

The Regent made the comments to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, after a meeting with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa, who also delivered to him a message addressed to His Majesty King Hussein from President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt.

No details of the message were immediately available, but it was believed that it had to do with the Middle East peace process and Arab coordination.

The Regent met separately with Mr. Arafat and Mr. Musa and then held a joint meeting with both as all attention was focused on Amman where the Palestinians were expected to take the crucial decision of whether and when to resume



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Tuesday holds a joint meeting with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat (right) and Egyptian

Foreign Minister Amr Musa (left) attended by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker (right)

peace talks with Israel.

In his comments to Petra, the Regent emphasized "the importance of an overall assessment of the current Arab situation designed to avert any future criticism that (Arab and Palestinian leaderships) abandoned their historical responsibilities."

The Regent said the Arab assessment was "particularly sig-

nificant in view of Israel's arrogance and its oppressive measures against the Palestinian people in the occupied territories, including victimization and expulsions, and the key issue of Jerusalem."

"We will see the results of the evaluation at the Damascus meeting of the ministers of foreign affairs of the Arab parties involved in the peace process," the

Crown Prince said.

The comments indicated that an Arab decision to resume peace talks would be conditional on Israel adopting several measures to address the Arab concerns and the U.S., one of the two sponsors of the peace process, undertaking certain guarantees (see separate story).

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Israelis rocket 4 Gaza homes

OCCUPIED GAZA STRIP (Agencies) — Israeli troops rocketed and destroyed four Palestinian homes in the occupied Gaza Strip Tuesday during a search for wanted men, Palestinians said.

The raid began before dawn and continued into the afternoon in a neighbourhood of Gaza City. Troops roved the streets with loudspeakers demanding that wanted persons surrender.

Soldiers rocketed and destroyed the homes of the Ashkar, Hassounah, Mourad and Sibeh families on suspicion fugitives were hiding in them, Palestinians said.

Two members of the Fatah Hawks, a group affiliated with Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) mainstream Fatah faction, were arrested by troops at the Sibeh house, they said.

Soldiers shot and wounded five Palestinians in clashes at Jabaliya refugee camp in the strip, camp residents said.

Troops have conducted house-to-house raids on towns in the strip in the three weeks since Israel sealed off it and the occupied West Bank in response to

attacks last month in which 13 Israelis were killed.

In the West Bank, security forces sealed the home of Suleiman Masai at Bani Hassan village Tuesday, army radio said. It said Mr. Masai had confessed to taking part in a shooting attack two months ago in which a soldier was killed.

Israeli troops shot and killed a Palestinian after he allegedly opened fire on a patrol in the Gaza Strip Monday, Arab reports said, but the army denied the incident took place.

Paramilitary policemen killed a masked Palestinian boy in the town of Yamoun in the occupied West Bank, the army said.

The Gaza man was named in the Arab reports as Majdi Abu Musa, 27, a member of the Red Eagles group, affiliated to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

Abu Musa, from the town of Khan Yunis, was part of a group of armed men who opened fire on the patrol in the Nuseirat refugee camp, the reports said.

The soldiers returned fire, killing

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Israeli-resistance clashes follow blast in Lebanon

MARJAYOUN, Lebanon (AP) — A roadside bomb exploded in a patrol of Israel's surrogate militia in South Lebanon Tuesday, provoking artillery duels with resistance fighters, security sources said.

They said two of the Israeli-financed South Lebanon Army (SLA) were missing and three others wounded in the blast that was followed by a hit-and-run foray by guerrilla infiltrators.

Six Lebanese villagers also were wounded in ensuing artillery duels pitting the Israelis and the SLA against fighters of the Iranian-backed Hizbollah, the sources said.

The bomb went off at 2 p.m. (1100 GMT) near Ghizlan outpost in Jezzeine. The sources said a BMW car in which the missing SLA militiamen were travelling was burned.

The Israeli army said the two SLA men were "kidnapped." Sources quoted by AFP said the two were killed. Israeli soldiers "chased after the kidnappers and returned artillery fire at the escape routes" of the assailants, an army spokes-

man said.

Jezzeine sits on the tip of a corridor leading to Israel's self-styled "security zone."

The Islamic Resistance, Hizbollah's military wing, claimed responsibility for the roadside bomb, but the initial communique gave no details.

The sources said Israeli gunners and SLA militiamen lobbed more than 110 rounds of tank, 1 Howitzer and mortar fire on suspected Hizbollah hideouts facing the scene of the blast in Iqlim Al Tuffah, or apple province, within three hours.

Hizbollah struck back with 40 rounds of mortars on Sujod, a joint Israeli-SLA hilltop position on the edge of the zone's eastern sector.

The sources said all the civilian casualties from the shelling, including a six-year-old school girl, were from Iqlim Al Tuffah.

The fresh hostilities underscored a fifth week in the latest wave of violence in South Lebanon as Arab and Palestinians pressed for a postponement of the ninth round of Arab-Israeli peace talks.



Two elderly residents of Rafah in the occupied Gaza Strip sit in the shade for another day to pass under a harsh clampdown imposed by the Israeli occupation forces (AFP photo)

Italians want reform, but politicians bicker

ROME (AP) — Four out of five voting Italians agree it's time to drastically change a political system paralysed by corruption and all-powerful parties.

Now the bickering begins. Minutes after projections Monday showed overwhelming approval for a referendum calling for direct elections, a throng of political voices arose on what the future course should be.

In final, official results announced Tuesday morning by the Interior Ministry, 83 per cent of the voters approved a proposal to directly elect three-quarters of the 315 Senate seats, instead of granting them to the parties according to their percentage of the vote.

Voters also approved, by 90 per cent, a referendum abolishing the large government subsidies to parties.

Reformers hope the vote on Senate elections will make politicians more accountable to voters and weaken money-hungry parties. They hope that by creating the

chance for one political force to gain a majority, that will eliminate the need for weak coalition governments. Italy has had 51 governments since the end of World War II.

The parties' grip on power has opened the door to widespread abuse. After 14 months of investigations, more than 2,600 politicians and businessmen are under arrest or suspicion, mainly over kickbacks to parties and politicians in exchange for commercial contracts.

"Today Italy has changed," said Mario Segi, a member of the Chamber of Deputies who led the electoral reform movement.

"It is the end of impotent democracy, of incomplete democracy. It is the beginning of a democracy of alternatives, of a democracy where parties count for less and citizens much more."

Premier Giuliano Amato was expected to resign to pave the way for a new government in advance of elections under the revised system, though he could return as premier.

Regent urges international focus on plight of people under Israeli rule

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, has called for an expression of will by everyone concerned in the Middle East peace process and by the U.S., the main sponsor of the process, which has promised the role of a full partner.

In an interview with Mexican Television, Prince Hassan drew attention to the negative aspects of realities on the ground and said disparities and the living conditions of the Israelis and the Palestinians were the key issue that should be attended to.

He also urged a regional discussion of human rights.

"Very clearly I think that one

can't talk about momentum and (pace) without regaining the position that was held very clearly by the Arab delegations, in particular on the issue of human rights and ... it was very clear that human rights can only be discussed regionally, and this is one of the very important points that has to be made that there is no synergy or link between the multilateral on refugees at present and the appalling situation faced by Palestinians in that sealed-off reality of the ever-diminishing occupied territories as we see it today," he said.

"The international community emphasises the importance of Resolution 242 and — whether terri-

ories or the territories — 242 defines over 5,000 square kilometres of the West Bank, (the Israeli) sealing-off effectively means one fifth of the territories anywhere in greater Jerusalem area is sealed off or sequestered. ... And you see the greatest funding to any region in the Middle East going to the occupied territories but in reality it is going to settlement and the international community is unfortunately so pre-occupied with so many other issues on the international agenda that there is very little focus at the present time on this priority. This is why going

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Turks pay last respects to Ozal

ANKARA (Agencies) — Funeral ceremonies for Turkish President Turgut Ozal began Tuesday with a procession of officials and citizens paying their last respects to Mr. Ozal, whose body lay in state in the parliament hall.

The late president's wife, Sema Ozal, and his three children opened the procession followed by Turkish government officials, diplomats and military leaders.

Private citizens, who formed a long line outside parliament, were then allowed to file past Mr. Ozal's coffin, which lay on a catafalque surrounded by Turkish flags.

Mr. Ozal, who died of a heart attack Saturday at the age of 66, was to be buried Wednesday in Ankara's Grand Mosque. His body will be cremated Thursday in Istanbul.

Parliamentary Speaker Husein Cindoruk was appointed interim president until the legislature chooses a new head of state by May 27.

Mr. Ozal's coffin, draped with a Turkish flag, was transported under heavy security from the capital's military hospital to the parliament building.

Several foreign officials were expected to arrive for the funeral, including Armenian President Levon Ter Petrosian and Azerbaijani President Abulfaz Elshibey.

It was not clear whether the Armenian and Azerbaijani heads of state would use their trip to

Egyptian information chief escapes assassination bid

CAIRO (Agencies) — Gunmen with submachine guns opened fire on the car of Information Minister Sawaf Al Sherif Tuesday, wounding him and two aides. Islamic radicals claimed responsibility for the attack.

A visibly shaken Sherif, whose right hand was wrapped in a white bandage, said his bodyguard was badly hurt. His driver was also hit in the attack but was able to drive to the nearby Ain Shams Hospital.

"I was leaning down getting something from my briefcase when they started shooting," Mr. Sherif told AP reporter Zina Hemady. "I did not see who was

shooting. I think my bodyguard shot back at them. They shot him in the back and chest and my driver got a superficial wound in his side."

The minister's blue Mercedes-Benz had two bullet shots through its front glass. Its back glass was shattered, and the front passenger's seat, where the bodyguard sat, was soaked with blood.

Mr. Sherif's hand was cut by flying glass, initial reports that his driver was killed proved incorrect.

Al Gamaa Al Islamiya (Islamic Group), which is trying to over-

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Sharif slams president, says his cabinet was successful

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — Claiming he had the support of all Pakistanis, ousted Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said Tuesday that President Ghulam Ishaq Khan had dismissed him for "selfish motives" to the detriment of the national interest.

Mr. Sharif defended at a press conference his 29-month-old government's economic record, saying it had produced the fastest growing economy in South Asia before it was sacked by Mr. Ishaq Khan Sunday.

"Ghulam Ishaq Khan is playing with the destiny of the nation... he's acted out of purely selfish motives," said Mr. Sharif, adding that he "saw no reason why the National Assembly had to be dissolved."

"The action of the president has been resented by everybody in the country and condemned by all sectors," he said. "There's a complete strike in Lahore and other parts of the country."

Mr. Ishaq Khan's decision to dismiss the National Assembly came at the height of a three-month struggle between him and Mr. Sharif over their different views in the power of the two offices, and not for any ideological differences.

Mr. Sharif, who plans to mobilise the people, said he would go on a train ride to Lahore Wednesday stopping along the way to address crowds.

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Algeria court rejects death sentences; top Islamist leader killed

ALGIERS (AP) — A special court Monday rejected prosecution demands for the death penalty against eight defendants in a mass trial of 41 suspected Islamic activists.

Police meanwhile announced that a leader of the banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) who urged the assassination of political figures was shot and killed by security forces April 6.

The anti-terrorist court in the western city of Oran sentenced two defendants to life terms without parole, one to 20 years, and 29 to terms ranging from two to 15 years. Nine were acquitted.

Those sentenced were convicted of conspiracy against the state, attempted assassination and kidnapping, and trafficking arms.

The penalties handed down by the court, one of three anti-terrorism panels that has the right to impose the death penalty without appeal, were seen as moderate.

Since their creation in September to streamline the judicial procedures against terror suspects, the courts in Oran, Algiers and Constantine have sentenced at least 22 people to death. It is not known how many have been carried out.

The trial took place behind closed doors. No details have been released by authorities on the defendants or their alleged crimes.

Police meanwhile announced that Omar Al Eulmi, a member of the 14-man council that ruled the FIS until it was legally dissolved, was killed in an Algiers suburb by security forces.

The nearly two-week delay in the announcement was not explained. Police offered no details, saying only that Eulmi, 40, was operating under a false identity as a student.

Eulmi last month issued a religious decree on an underground tape cassette urging his followers to kill "agents of the government."

The orders came as assassins killed three political figures in four days. No claim of responsibility was issued, but police blamed Islamic gunmen.

In the cassette, Eulmi denounced FIS leaders in exile in Europe as "hypocrites" interested only in power. He was known to be competing with other leaders in Algeria for control of the armed insurgency.

Eulmi, who founded an Islamic labour union, led the strike called by the FIS over unfavourable electoral rules in May 1991. At least 55 people died in rioting. A four-month state of emergency was imposed and several Salvation Front leaders arrested.

A first round of parliamentary elections was held under new rules in December 1991. The FIS placed well ahead of the opposition, but the second round was cancelled in January 1992 by a military coup.

The government imposed a new state of emergency, still in effect, and dissolved the FIS. Eulmi was detained for a few weeks in a desert detention centre, released for unknown reasons, and went underground.

The underground war between Islamic gunmen and security forces since the military takeover has left more than 600 people dead.

Saudi paper hits Kuwait over Bush

DUBAI (R) — A Saudi newspaper has taken Kuwait bitterly to task for appearing to ignore its neighbours' role in liberating it from Iraqi occupation when it heaped honours on former U.S. President George Bush.

"Kuwaitis have the right to honour Bush but the region's peoples also have a right to be deeply affected when their primary role in the battle is suppressed and is only referred to as a sop," Al Riyadh daily said in a commentary Saturday. The newspaper was obtained Monday.

The newspaper, which often reflects official Saudi thinking, was remarking on the extraordinary hero's welcome Mr. Bush received when he visited Kuwait last week to receive thanks for leading the alliance that expelled the Iraqis who invaded in August 1990.

"I felt as a Saudi citizen, as the entire Saudi people felt, that the Saudi role in the Gulf crisis was virtually absent ...

"(This) can only be explained by the predominance of the foreigner complex in the minds of those who restrict extravagant praise to Bush alone," the daily wrote in an unusual criticism of a Gulf Arab newspaper.

The newspaper reminded Kuwaitis that Saudis not only shared their homes and food with those who fled the Iraqi invasion, but had also hosted the entire Kuwaiti government.

Saudi Arabia's sacrifice was even greater when it allowed the allies to use its territory as a base for the counterattack that liberated Kuwait, it said.

"Without that, Kuwaitis would have lost their land forever," it added.

It said Saudi Arabia's King Fahd "risked his country and his people's lives."

"There is no greater sacrifice that a country can make for a neighbour whose land and people have been abused," it added.

The newspaper said Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Syria, whose troops also took part in the battle to expel the Iraqis, were only mentioned in passing during the Bush visit "as if to say 'don't you dare get angry for we have mentioned you'."



TALKS AT PRIME MINISTRY: Prime Minister Yasser Arafat (left) and Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa (right) Tuesday discuss the peace process (photo by Youssef Al 'Allan)

Emigration under threat if Yeltsin loses vote — aide

TEL AVIV (AFP) — If Boris Yeltsin loses Sunday's referendum on his reform programme, Jewish emigration to Israel could be halted, a senior aide to the Russian president told Voice of Israel radio Tuesday.

"If Yeltsin does not succeed, this could have negative effects, especially on the Jewish intelligentsia who are prominent supporters of the democratic movement," the president's spokesman, Viacheslav Kostikov, said.

"There could be stringent sanctions against the Jews, including severe restrictions against Jews serving in public positions," he warned.

Nearly 17,000 of the 20,000 immigrants who arrived in Israel during the first three months of 1993 were from the former Soviet Union and the majority of them from Russia.

Since Mikhail Gorbachev opened the gates to Jewish emigration in late 1989, nearly 500,000 Jews have settled in Israel, the vast majority from the former Soviet empire.

Israeli officials are looking to attract about 100,000 Jews to the country for each of the next five years, the bulk of them again from Russia.

"Communist propaganda is nationalistic and anti-Zionist," Mr. Kostikov said, referring to the opposition as "neo-Nazis."

"It is not inconceivable that if the communists regain control they will resort to force," he added.

Hebrew newspapers reported that several hundred demonstrators protested outside the Israeli embassy in Moscow two weeks ago shouting anti-Zionist slogans.

But Benjamin Sokolov, deputy speaker of the parliament which has challenged Mr. Yeltsin, told the radio the Yeltsin camp was exaggerating the fears. "I don't believe there will be any danger to the Jews," he said.

The Jewish Agency, a quasi-official body which oversees immigration, has also played down any threat to mass arrivals.

Chaim Chesler, head of the agency in the former Soviet Union, told Tuesday's Jerusalem Post that continued emigration did not depend on the results of the referendum and he could see no going back.

"There are no signs at this point that any sector in the ex-Soviet Union can stop (immigration)," he said.

Sudan rebels, key parties reach accord

NAIROBI (AFP) — South Sudanese rebels and banned opposition political parties have reached an accord on two key issues for a new interim constitution for Sudan at weekend talks here, they stated Monday.

The Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) and the Sudan Democratic Alliance (SDA), grouping several northern parties, told journalists here that they had agreed to incorporate international and regional human rights instruments and covenants as an integral part of a new constitution for Sudan.

The two parties also agreed that a new Sudanese constitution shall guarantee full equality of citizens on the basis of citizenship, respect for religious beliefs and traditions and without discrimination on grounds of religion, race, gender or culture.

"Any laws contrary thereto shall be considered null and void and unconstitutional," they said in a joint communiqué read to the press on Monday.

John Garang's mainstream faction, the SPLA, is preparing for negotiations with the military junta in Khartoum, which are set to be held in Addis Ababa under Nigerian auspices on April 26.

The SPLA and the opposition said their final Nairobi accord brought a full consensus over articles of the interim constitution worked out at previous meetings in Addis Ababa in 1991 and London in 1992, with a view to decisively resolving the remaining issues for democratic, secular Sudan.

Two previous meetings on the issue had resolved that strict Islamic law, the main reason for the bloody civil war between the SPLA and the government in Khartoum, "be abolished," the communiqué pointed out.

The SPLA and the SDA maintained that they wanted the unity of Sudan, and that if that cannot be achieved, they would accept "a qualified confederation between the north and south, but within one Sudan."

Three breakaway SPLA factions led by Riek Machar, William Nyuon Bol and Kerubino Kwanyin Boli, now grouped under the banner of SPLA united, were not invited to the Nairobi talks because, they said, "the group was calling for self-determination for the south and not unity of Sudan."

Signing the communiqué were leading officials of the Umma Party of deposed Prime Minister Sadek al Mahdi and the Democratic Unionist Party, the Sudan Communist Party, Union of Sudan African Parties, the Legitimate Command and independent national figures.

Egypt, Sudan review ties

CAIRO (R) — Egypt and Sudan, once close friends but now at odds over Muslim fundamentalism and other issues, have discussed their fraught relations with neither side offering any hope of improvement.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa, meeting his Sudanese counterpart Hussein Sleiman Abu Saleh Monday night, told reporters afterwards:

"There are many blemishes which smudge Sudan's image in the Arab World. There must be change or development of a number of (Sudanese) policies."

Mr. Abu Saleh said bluntly: "(the state of) Egyptian-Sudanese ties pleases neither of us."

Neither minister, meeting for the first time since Mr. Abu Saleh was appointed in February, mentioned anything that might break the deadlock on the issues that divide the two neighbours who have traditionally had close ties.

Egypt says Sudan's Islamic rulers, in cahoots with Iran, have trained and backed Muslim guer-

illas to destabilise other Arab countries as part of an international Islamic revolution.

Khartoum in turn accuses Cairo of leading a campaign of defamation to persuade the rest of the Arab World and the West to bring down its Islamic-style government.

An old border dispute has flared up between the two states, which both claim sovereignty over the desert triangle of Haleb. A joint committee set up to try and resolve the issue is making no progress.

Mr. Abu Saleh came to Cairo for an Arab League foreign ministers' meeting Sunday.

Mr. Musa, saying ties were shaken, mentioned "certain Sudanese contacts and alliances" in an apparent reference to Iran.

Sudan's cash-strapped government, spurred on by the prospect of cheap oil, has alarmed Egypt by trying to cultivate Tehran.

Mr. Abu Saleh countered by saying Sudan's links to Iran were "normal bilateral ties" and should not be exaggerated.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Sudanese floods kill at least 21

KHARTOUM (R) — Floods and torrential rain in port Sudan have killed at least 21 people, the official Sudan News Agency (SUNA) said Tuesday. The agency quoted Red Sea provincial commissioner Abdul Halim Ismail as saying several thousand shanties and hundreds of houses had been destroyed by heavy rain Friday and Saturday. But he said the worst was over and supplies and services were returning to normal at the port, 1,200 kilometres northeast of Khartoum, through which almost all Sudan's exports and imports pass. Flooding Friday destroyed water facilities at Arbaat Valley which supplies piped water to Port Sudan, which has problems getting drinking water at the best of times. The commissioner said arrangements were being made to distribute water. Mr. Ismail said dust roads had reopened along the Khartoum-Port Sudan highway, Sudan's busiest land route, though traffic was limited to buses and small cars. Sudan's deputy head of state, Major-General Al Zubeir Mohammad Salih, visited the port and said the government would give 30 million Sudanese pounds (\$200,000) to help in relief operations in Red Sea province.

EC condemns murder of Israeli lawyer in Gaza

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — European Community (EC) officials here Monday condemned the murder of an Israeli lawyer in one of their aid offices in the occupied Gaza Strip. "The Commission (of European Communities) strongly condemns the merciless murder of Ilan Fainberg and expresses its profound sadness," a statement from the commission said. Assassins Sunday killed Fainberg with an axe and knives, Palestinian sources said, adding that the Red Eagles, an armed wing of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), claimed the killing. "This lawyer was the legal advisor for the office of cooperation for development, a non-governmental European organisation charged with implementing a \$36-million EC programme to build homes in the West Bank and Gaza Strip," it said. "This brutal action constitutes a deliberate attempt by a minority radical group to weaken efforts by the EC and the Palestinians to improve living conditions in the occupied territories," it said. "The commission is convinced that the vast majority of the Palestinian people join in this condemnation. The escalation in violence illustrates the need for a quick resumption of the peace process aimed at a durable political settlement."

Briton faces 120 lashes in S. Arabia

LONDON (AFP) — A British man faces 120 lashes after being convicted of breaking Saudi Arabian anti-alcohol laws, the Foreign Office said early Tuesday. Damien Devine, understood to be a firefighter aged 51, was also sentenced to six months in prison by a judge in Riyadh, a spokesman said, adding that this had yet to be confirmed by Saudi ministers. Officials were monitoring the situation, he said. The early editions of Tuesday's newspapers reported that Mr. Devine was accused of producing his own alcohol at Christmas. The Daily Express quoted his wife, Anna, of Cirencester, Gloucestershire, south-west England, dismissing the charges as "absolute rubbish." The Daily Star said Mr. Devine trained as a firefighter in the British airforce and had worked in Saudi Arabia for the past five years.

Son of Hitler aide visits Israel

TEL AVIV (AP) — A son of a Hitler deputy visited Israel secretly, spending several days meeting offshoots of Holocaust survivors, his host said Tuesday. The visit by Martin Bormann's eldest son was organised by Israeli psychologist Dan Bar-On, author of a book about the guilt feelings of descendants of Hitler's henchmen. Mr. Bar-On confirmed a report in the Yedioth Ahronoth daily that Martin Bormann Jr., 63, a former priest and theology teacher, visited Israel. Mr. Bormann left Tuesday. Mr. Bar-On said, Mr. Bormann's father was in charge of carrying out Hitler's directives, including the "final solution" which led to the killing of six million people throughout Europe. His exact fate is unknown, but Mr. Bormann Jr. told Yedioth he believed his father died when Hitler's German descendants of Nazi war criminals met nine offshoots of Holocaust survivors in isolation at an Israeli communal farm over a four-day period last week, said Mr. Bar-On, a lecturer at Ben Gurion University in Beer Sheva. Mr. Bar-On said he wanted to see whether the offspring of criminals and those of their victims can coexist.

Opposition cries foul in runup to Yemeni polls

SANA (AP) — Opposition parties are accusing the two ruling parties of campaign abuses as Yemen gears up for parliamentary elections, the first multi-party poll on the Arabian Peninsula.

The April 27 elections, postponed twice from last fall because of a wave of attempted assassinations of leading politicians, are a crucial test of Yemen's fledgling democracy.

Yemen has faced economic hardship since the 1990 Gulf crisis, when Saudi Arabia, angered by Yemen's support for Iraq, expelled one million Yemeni workers. They returned to an already overburdened economy.

In recent months, government workers, particularly in South Yemen, have staged a series of strikes — unprecedented in the region — demanding increases in pay and better working conditions.

But the campaign has revolved around tribal affiliations and personalities, not issues.

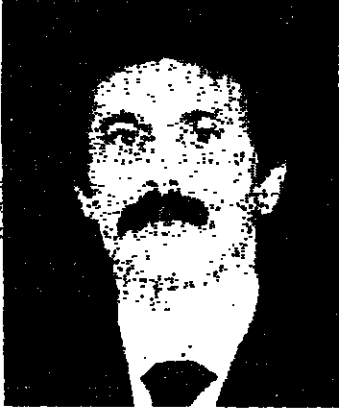
Opposition politicians also accuse the government of inflating electoral rolls to its advantage, using its control of the media to influence voters, and fielding candidates nominally listed as independents.

The two ruling parties — the North's conservative General Peoples Congress, headed by President Ali Abdullah Saleh, and the South's left-leaning Socialist Party, led by Ali Salem Al Beidh — have not responded to the allegations.

"If we really were to have free and fair elections, there could be some genuine

Abdul Rahman Al Jufri, leader of the opposition Sons of Yemen League. "The Yemeni people are ready for democracy, but their leaders are not,"

He said he has filed a com-



Ali Abdullah Saleh
 Ali Abdullah Saleh, president of the elections committee, said that the ruling parties were fielding their own candidates under his party's name.

The third largest party is the Muslim fundamentalist Al Islah, which has picked up some support with its call for a return to Islamic values and a ban on alcohol.

There are 21 parties fielding candidates for the 301 parliamentary seats. Elections officials have not yet published a full list of registered candidates.

Any citizen 18 years or older is eligible to vote. There are over 2.6 million registered voters, including 500,000 women, of a total population of about 14 million.

Since the former North and South Yemen were united nearly three years ago, the merged nation has been ruled by a coalition of the two major parties.

Tribal links are widely believed to account in part for the assassination attempts of politicians from both leading parties over the past year.

No-one has been arrested in the violence, which consisted mainly of amateurish bomb attacks on politicians' homes that caused damage but few casualties.

Germany to send troops to Somalia

BONN (AFP) — German Chancellor Helmut Kohl's ruling coalition agreed Tuesday to send around 1,600 German soldiers to Somalia to take part in the famine relief mission there, a government spokesman said.

It will be the first time German army personnel participate in a mission outside the territory of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) countries.

The government decision, which was made in response to a request by U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali, will be formally adopted Wednesday during a cabinet meeting, spokesman Dieter Vogel said.

The U.S.-led operation which began in December to protect relief operations from roving gunmen in the starving Horn of Africa nation is scheduled to be taken over by a traditional U.N. force in May.

The German soldiers will be deployed in demilitarised areas by the end of June and will be protected by a self-defence unit, Mr. Vogel said. He said a reconnaissance unit will be sent within two weeks to verify that the zones where the soldiers will be deployed are in fact free of combat between Somalia's warring factions.

Ethiopia accepts inevitable secession of Eritreans

ADDIS ABABA (AFP) — With a week to go before a referendum opens on independence for Eritrea, most Ethiopians appeared resigned to losing their turbulent northern province which has been pitted against the central authority for the past 30 years.

Africa's longest independence struggle was due to climax in an independence referendum under United Nations supervision on April 23, some two years after the Horn of Africa's strongman Lieutenant-Colonel Mengistu Haile Mariam fled to Zimbabwe.

"If they want independence, let them have it. I'm tired of fighting," said the elderly driver of a taxi whose dashboard was spattered with military medals won in the armed forces of Emperor Haile Selassie, a robust proponent of Ethiopian integrity.

The old slogan "Ethiopia Tekdem (Ethiopia first), frequently used by the Mengistu regime to ease tensions among the country's 80 communities, no longer provoked the knee-jerk patriotic reflex that it used to.

"Ethiopians want to live in peace. They've been hearing too much gunfire these past few years, according to a diplomat posted here.

Even the prospective loss of the strategic Red Sea ports, Massawa and Assab, fails to rouse Ethiopians to passion.

Without these ports, which would belong to a future independent Eritrea, Ethiopia for the first time in its millenarian history becomes a landlocked state.

"We will use the port of Djibouti more, along with Mombasa, in Kenya. That's until the situation in Somalia stabilises," said Mekonnen, a former civil servant under Colonel Mengistu.

Like many others, Mekonnen succeeded in keeping his position under the new regime installed by the Tigrayan-dominated Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) which swept Col. Mengistu out of power in May 1991.

"Anyway, (EPRDF leader) Meles Zenawi promised the Eritreans their independence before he came to power," he added.

"If that's really what the people want, I've no objection to independence for Eritrea," said Belay, a 20-year-old university student.

Many students demonstrated against Eritrean independence last January during a visit by U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali. A student was killed as police intervened violently.

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 773111-19	
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:00	Stephane Grappelli
18:30	News in French
19:15	French Varieties
20:00	News in Hebrew
20:30	Chance in a Million
21:00	Spotlight
21:30	Documentary
22:00	News in English
22:30	Mini-series

PRAYER TIMES	
04:35	Fajr
05:37	(Sunrise) Dhuhr
12:35	Dhuhr
16:13	Asr
19:12	Maghrib
20:34	Isha

CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swifish, Tel. 810740	
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terrence Church Tel. 622366	

WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
It will be relatively cold and partly cloudy, and winds will be northwesterly to moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly fresh and seas calm.	

CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swifish, Tel. 810740	
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terrence Church Tel. 622366	

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:	
Dr. Bahjat Bader	849362
Dr. Hisham Kassar	742886
Dr. Ghazi Abu Sheikha	752405
Dr. Adnan Al Zughoul	898140
Firas pharmacy	661912
Ferdows pharmacy	776336
AI Asana pharmacy	637055
Nairoh pharmacy	626702
AI Salam pharmacy	636730
Yaacob pharmacy	644945
Shamsan pharmacy	637660
Nairoh pharmacy	626772
Najib pharmacy	847632

IRBID:	
Dr. Amin Abu Eids	()
AI Quds pharmacy	()
ZARQA:	
Dr. Ibrahim Al Hindi	()
Khalifeh pharmacy	985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre	637111
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue	630241
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Rescue Police	192, 621111, 637771
Tire Brigade	911224
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	696390
Public Security Department	630321
Hotel Complaints	630390
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage Complaints	897467
Amman Municipality Complaints	787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance)	121
Overses Calls	010230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs	623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs	661101
Jordan Television	773111
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	680100
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
Electric Power Company	634581
RJ Flight Information	06-53200

Queen Alia Intl. Airport..... 06-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:	
Hussein Medical Centre	813813/32
Khalifeh Maternity, J. Anas	644281/6
Khalifeh Maternity, J. Ama	642412
Jabal Amman Maternity	623261
Malhas, J. Antman	636140
Palestine, Shamsani	664171/4
Shamsani Hospital	669131
University Hospital	843845
Al-Musharraf Hospital	65727/9
The Islamic, Abdali	666173/7
Al-Abdi, Abdali	664164
Italian, Al-Muhajreen	77701/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh	775112/4
Army, Shamsani	891611/5
Queen Alia Hospital	602246/50
Amal Hospital	674155
ZARQA:	
Zarga Govt. Hospital	(09)983323
Zarga National Hospital	(09)900550
Ibn Sina Hospital	(09)986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital	(09)990900
IRBID:	
Princess Beama Hospital	(02)275555
Great Oasis Hospital	(02)272775
Ibn Al Nafies Hospital	(02)547100
AQABA:	
Princess Haya Hospital	(06)366111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:00	Adon (RJ)
09:45	Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:00	Aqaba (RJ)
16:00	Jeddah (RJ)
18:00	Jeddah (RJ)
17:30	London (RJ)
17:45	Frankfurt (RJ)
18:25	Istanbul (RJ)
18:30	New York, Atlanta (RJ)
18:30	Brussels, Paris (RJ)
19:10	Madrid, Geneva (RJ)
19:10	Toronto, Montreal (RJ)



Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker meets Tuesday with visiting President of the Jeddah-based Islamic Development Bank Ahmad Mohammad Ali (centre) and Central Bank of Jordan Governor Mohammad Said Al Nabulsi (Petra photo).

IDB to finance major projects

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Tuesday praised the role of the Jeddah-based Islamic Development Bank (IDB) in all areas of development and its continuous endeavours to cooperate with Islamic countries.

Sharif Zeid was speaking at a meeting with the visiting president of the IDB, Ahmad Mohammad Ali, attended by the Central Bank of Jordan Governor Mohammad Said Al Nabulsi.

The Prime Minister was briefed on bilateral cooperation between Jordan and the IDB in economic, commercial and social fields and on the projects to be financed by

the bank, particularly labour-intensive, scientific and technological projects.

Planning Minister Ziad Fariz also received Dr. Ali and reviewed with him scopes of cooperation between Jordan and the bank.

In a press statement after the meeting, Dr. Fariz said the IDB will finance the construction of King Abdullah Hospital at Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) in Irbid governorate.

He also said the IDB will finance a project to augment the production capacity of the Arab Potash Company.

Dr. Fariz added that the IDB had agreed to finance the purchase of a multi-purpose ship that will join the Jordan National Shipping Lines, as well as provide technical assistance in various fields.

The bank has also agreed to finance the connection of the railroad at Shidieh junction and a project for pumping water from the Disi basin to Amman.

Dr. Ali stressed the need to support the potash industry, because of the achievements made by the Arab Potash Company.

The meeting was attended by ministry Secretary General Sawan Tougan.

Queen advocates universalising human rights norms

WASHINGTON (AP) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Monday said the time has come to universalise human rights and their enforcement "in a way that is culturally and politically relevant to all peoples."

People in many parts of the world now question "discriminatory policies which vigorously advocate adherence to human rights standards in some countries, but disregard equally severe or blatant violations in others," the Queen said at a conference on human rights for the 21st century.

"A more stable and humane global order requires... a cross-cultural consensus that is clear, credible and durable," she said.

Queen Noor was honorary chair of a two-day session at American University in Washington D.C. intended to illuminate issues before the U.N. Human Rights Conference at Vienna, Austria, in June.

The challenge at Vienna will be to harness political will and redefine human rights issues in a way to promote the emergence of a more humane world order, she said.

Rights may seem a "meaningless luxury" to those who "humanity has been denied due to occupation, warfare, starvation, environmental degradation, economic collapse or debt," the

Queen said.

The goal should be to identify values shared by all cultures, she added.

Queen Noor identified "individual legal rights" as stressed by advanced countries and "collective national rights" as stressed by the newly independent, saying they "can and should coexist comfortably."

The Queen said the consensus should reaffirm individual, political and civil rights expanded to include pluralist democracy, the rights of women, native peoples, children, the disabled, the elderly and academic freedom, as well as freedom from occupation, racism, excessive debt and environmental degradation.

Queen Noor said the United Nations would be "the logical authority for human rights monitoring" assisted by a strong network of non-government organisations, national bodies and individuals.

She described as "interesting new ideas" proposals for a powerful international human rights organisation or a U.N. high commissioner for human rights.

"In many lands, human rights are being drowned beneath repeated waves of ethnic violence, xenophobic frenzy and severe economic and demographic stress," Queen Noor emphasised.



Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Tuesday chairs the opening session of a training course entitled "A Career and Self Development Course for Women" (Petra photo).

Women learn confidence in career training course

By Sa'eda Kilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Leading women in Jordan admitted Tuesday that what they really need is confidence to counter inequality and exploitation imposed by their male counterparts.

The general consensus on the need for women to devise new strategies necessary for their progress, develop a sense of self-esteem and self-confidence, and explore ways to overcome obstacles imposed in the labour market against them, was reached at the end of a morning session on the first day of a training course at Philadelphia Hotel.

The training course, which is organised by the National Committee for Women (NCW) and sponsored by the International Labour Organisation (ILO), is considered the first of its kind to take place in the Middle East.

"Women don't have self-esteem because nobody gives them credit for what they do," Nicholas Malet De Carteret, a consultant from the United Kingdom told the Jordan Times. "The course gives them time to assess themselves, their careers, what they are trying to achieve and how to achieve it."

The training course, entitled "A Career and Self Development Course for Women," aims mainly at helping women become more positive in their thinking; face daily challenges with more determination and more confidence; have a deeper knowledge of their inner resources and of the skills they have and those they lack.

"We can't wait for structures to change," said Ms. Carteret. "We must take the initiative and have the power to make decisions to produce change."

Women participants, who were at first, sceptical of the nature of the course and of its benefits, indulged in serious and enthusiastic talk about their work, their aspirations, the difficulties they

encounter and what they want to do.

"This is the first time that somebody asks me to talk about my achievements," said one of the participants at the end of the evening session.

"I have never had time to think it over even with myself... it is a wonderful feeling."

Most of the participants discovered that interest and appreciation of their roles were absent at home and at work.

Though most of them occupy leading posts, they admitted that this "little time they have been given" has made a difference.

"They have never stopped to think of themselves... we usually focus on management skills and forget that we are humans," Ms. Carteret said.

Citing U.N. statistics on women in the labour force, Ms. Carteret indicated in her opening speech the considerable efforts women have to exert to better their situation.

"Women constitute more than half of the world population and produce two-thirds of the work, but they earn one-tenth of the world's income," she said.

"We are here to discuss and take time to think," she added. "You have to ask yourselves: Where are you going and what have you achieved until now... how can you become powerful individuals, and reach a position where you can affect change."

Women participants, representing various ministries in Jordan, women's organisations or private companies, expressed hope that this course will help them to achieve progress and overcome obstacles imposed in their work.

"I hope this course would help me overcome the stress and tension I am in now," said one of the participants.

"I want to know how to deal with people in an efficient way that would make them respect me

as a woman in a leading post," another participant said.

One director of a company expressed her anger at how people can not accept a woman in a leading post.

She told the Jordan Times that negative remarks are not only made by 'people in the street' but they come from home too.

"Although he is ten years younger than I am, my brother who came from abroad recently and knows nothing about the business, thinks that he must take over the company because I am a woman," she said.

Ms. Carteret insisted that these kinds of training courses are needed, not only in this region but all over the world.

She said that women employees suffer from the same kinds of discrimination, though at varying degrees.

"Out of 120 employees in leading posts at the Ministry of Education in Jordan, only six of them are women... however, we are not better off in the United Kingdom," she said, pointing out that women have much to consider and strenuous efforts to exert before they can produce change.

The National Committee for Women, which was established in March 1992, aims at reviewing and identifying legal and policy constraints to women's participation in the developmental process; identifying and recommending ways of integrating women's concerns and issues into that process; and developing plans and promoting greater participation of women in the democratic process.

The committee, chaired by Her Royal Highness Princess Basma is developing a national strategy and action plan to support public and private sectors' efforts to achieve their goals.

Their action plan would include the assistance of institutions to improve access to technical and financial resources.

Minister urges proper agricultural policies

AMMAN (Petra) — At the opening session of a three-day symposium on agricultural development in Jordan, Tuesday, Agriculture Minister Fayez Al Khasawneh said proper practical planning begins with identifying goals and formulating the right policies, followed by long and short-term strategies.

Dr. Khasawneh said the symposium will discuss five major agricultural items, namely irrigated crops, rain-fed agriculture, agriculture in the Jordanian badia (desert), forests and animal production.

Also addressing the opening session was U.S. Ambassador to Jordan, Roger Harrison, who

praised the efforts made by the concerned parties in the public and private sectors to develop agriculture.

He also applauded the work of the organisers of the symposium in collecting and analysing data in order to arrive at concrete results designed to upgrade the level of agriculture in Jordan.

The symposium was organised by the Ministry of Agriculture's Agricultural Policies Department, in cooperation with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

Taking part in the symposium are several experts from the agricultural sector and representatives of the USAID.

Workshop reviews study on agricultural sub-sectors

AMMAN (USIS) — Minister of Agriculture Fayez Al Khasawneh and U.S. Ambassador to Jordan Roger Harrison Tuesday opened a three-day "Decision Thinking Workshop" at the Regency Hotel in Amman.

The workshop will discuss the findings and recommendations of preliminary reports on five agricultural sub-sectors which were prepared through the on-going study entitled "Agricultural Sector Review and Policy Implementation Plan."

This study was initiated last September and entails a comprehensive review of the performance of the agricultural sector and the development of a policy implementation plan.

It is being conducted by a Jordanian team of private and

public sector specialists with assistance from U.S. advisors in the different subsectors, including irrigated agriculture, rainfed agriculture, forestry, rangelands, and livestock.

The study was designed to identify strategies, objectives, programmes, measures, and projects that will translate a developed coherent agricultural policy into an action programme.

The study, which is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in cooperation with German Technical Assistance (GTA), was planned and organised by the Ministry of Agriculture with the objective of developing a more consistent and sustainable agricultural policy and implementation plan.



The joint Jordanian-Omani committee Tuesday concludes its two-day meeting in Amman (Petra photo).

Oman, Jordan agree to set up trade exchange holding company

AMMAN (Petra) — At the conclusion of the two-day meeting of the Jordanian-Omani joint committee Tuesday, Minister of Industry and Trade Abdullah Ensour said the committee agreed to establish a holding company with a joint capital of \$10 million to promote trade exchanges.

Dr. Ensour added that it would be up to the two sides to decide on which projects to pursue.

The committee signed minutes of their deliberations providing for cooperation in trade, industry, handicrafts, health, tourism, information, culture and agriculture.

Omani Minister of Industry and Trade Maqbool Ben Ali Ben Sultan said the talks would increase the volume of trade between the two countries.

The minutes covered cooperation

in trade and industry calling for the increase in trade exchanges and the creation of joint companies to achieve that goal and to encourage exchanges of visits by businessmen from both sides.

The two parties also agreed to facilitate the exchange of personnel working in various sectors and to ease the process of transport trucks carrying goods between Oman and Jordan.

The Omani team sought Jordan's experience in the area of handicrafts tourism and health, and Jordan promised to comply with Oman's requirements.

The two sides agreed to further study a 1993-1995 cultural exchange programme to be formally signed as soon as possible.

In the cultural and information fields, Oman and Jordan said

they would honour a 1976 agreement and would promote the exchange of television and radio programmes and would conclude an agreement between their respective news agencies on the exchange of news material.

In the field of agriculture, the two parties agreed to exempt agricultural products originating in either one of the two countries from customs duty.

They also decided to form a technical committee to meet every three months to decide on how to implement joint economic ventures.

Jordan and Oman agreed to form a follow-up committee to meet every six months and to ensure the implementation of the joint committee's recommendations and resolutions.

Arab businesswomen to discuss their contributions, problems

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The International Federation of Business and Professional Women (IFBPW) and the Business and Professional Women's Club (BPWC) in Jordan are organising a three-day conference in Amman entitled "Women and Sustainable Development" under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor.

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) is providing technical support for the conference which is being held between April 26 and 28 at the Royal Cultural Centre, with the participation of

eight Arab states including Jordan, according to a BPWC statement.

The statement said the conference will review and analyse the main issues related to Arab women's participation in business, put forth ideas and proposed solutions to related difficulties, and identify the role which the IFBPW can play to help local women in business and professional work.

It said five working papers focusing on the main problems encountered by working women will be reviewed at the meeting which will be attended by delegates from Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Bahrain, the United Arab

Emirates, Oman and Yemen, in addition to the IFBPW delegation which includes representatives from Bermuda, Italy, Kenya, Singapore, the Netherlands and Finland.

Jordan, the statement continued, will be represented by 30 delegates from the private and public sectors, and the meetings will continue at the Grand Forte Hotel (formerly the Plaza).

The statement said the working papers will deal with the following: — Arab women's contributions in businesses and professions.

— Arab women and higher education: opportunities and lessons.

Amman Plaza now Forte Grand Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — Tuesday marked the renaming of the Amman Plaza Hotel to Forte Grand Amman, following changes in recent months within the Forte Hotels chain which owns the Amman hotel.

A spokesman for Forte Grand told the Jordan Times Tuesday that the hotel which was inaugurated as the Amman Plaza Hotel in 1986, was actually run by Trust House Forte which also operates other Forte Grand hotels in the Middle East.

The spokesman said that in the

past few months Forte Hotels introduced changes and subdivisions within its chain, creating five categories of its hotels around the world.

He said that the Forte Grand Hotel in Jordan falls within the deluxe category — which groups all the five-star hotels within the chain.

Based in the United Kingdom, Forte has 850 hotels worldwide. According to the spokesman the change of the name "meant reinforcing the linkage within the same Forte chain of hotels, but

there was no changes in the management."

The launching of Forte Grand Amman took place at a special reception hosted by the Chairman of the Housing Bank and Forte's Vice President for the Middle East Gerald Lawless.

According to the spokesman, the renaming of the hotel was consistent with the rebranding programme of Forte, and reflected the chain's commitment to the region where the Forte chain now has eight Forte Grand properties.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Art exhibition entitled "The Legend of Petra II" by artist Suba Shoman at the National Gallery for Fine Arts.
- ★ Art exhibition by Samia Al Zaru and Adnan Yahya at the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery.
- ★ Art exhibition by Syrian Artist Lujaina Al Aseel at Baladna Art Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition of books and educational facilities at the International Expo Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of prints, entitled "Architectural Motifs from the Arab World," by Rima Farah at The Gallery, Hotel Jordan Intercontinental.
- ★ Exhibition of watercolour paintings by Lebanese artist Randa Berouti at Romero Restaurant.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Hanan Al Dasouqi at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of chemical materials and experiments for school students at the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST).

THEATRE

- ★ Arabic play entitled "The Dawn and Sunset of a Girl Called Yassin" at 7 p.m. at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ English play entitled "The Right Size" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8 p.m.

LECTURE

- ★ Lecture entitled "The World Archaeological Congress: Past, Present and Future" by Dr. Peter Stone, the education officer for English heritage in Bristol and a member of the permanent secretariat of the World Archaeological Congress, at the Friends of Archaeological Centre at 7 p.m.

RANDA BEROUTI
Watercolours
at
RESTORANTE
ROMERO
April 19 - May 15

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

جوردان تايمز صحيفة سياسية مستقلة تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية

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Editor-in-Chief:
GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:
Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670414-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 696183

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Piracy and diplomacy

IS IT conceivable that Washington is still suffering from the hangover of the Gulf war as far as Jordan is concerned? Over two years have lapsed since that war ended, and yet the U.S. is still treating this country as if we remain in the enemy's camp. The best evidence of this inexplicable attitude is the turning back of Aqaba-bound ships — three this month alone — carrying general cargo to Jordanian importers. The third vessel, a Sudanese-flag ship chartered by a largely Jordanian government-owned shipping company, has just been turned back to Port Suez and this latest interference with free shipping came on the heel of two similar episodes involving Norwegian and Sudanese cargo ships transporting non-military goods from Western countries. Coming as it does only hours after the conclusion of joint U.S.-Jordanian military manoeuvres, one is at a loss to explain the rationality behind this behaviour, particularly when the goods freighted to Jordan originated mostly in Western countries and the carrier, the National Shipping Lines, is 75 per cent government owned. If the U.S. government did take a complete stock of Jordan's policies, both domestic and external, one would have thought that Amman would be rewarded and not penalised for them.

To start with Jordan has abided faithfully and to the best of its ability by the U.N. Security Council sanctions imposed on Iraq. There is no such thing as a fool-proof sanctions mechanism, no matter how hard countries try to enforce them. The Iraqi borders with Iran and Turkey are nearly side open with no significant reaction from the U.S. Picking on Jordan all the time when it has put into practice increasingly stiff measures to plug any existing loopholes is not something that augurs well for the role of Jordan in the ongoing peace process or with its determined efforts to nurture pluralistic democracy. Is it possible that in spite of the country's peaceful and progressive roles in the Middle East, there is still a determined effort to break the back of this country? How else can one interpret the persistent efforts to cut off the country's only sea outlet from the outside world. Perhaps there is a bad communication line between the U.S. inspectors in the high seas and Washington, and if this is the case it is high time that the U.S. State Department put an end to the over-exploited and abused excuse often offered by American Marines in the Tiran Straits that cargo destined for Jordan is inaccessible to easy inspection. The place to control and check cargo is at points of origin, if at all. There are no doubt that British, French and other European exporters are observing the sanctions regime against Iraq? Some of the cargo intercepted originates in the U.S. itself, we might add. There must be a better way than to handle this problem other than bleeding Jordan to death. Otherwise this country must take effective counter measures including the overhaul of its foreign policies towards its presumably good friends and allies. Piracy in diplomatic relations would simply not work.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

SAWT AL SHAAB daily Tuesday discussed the stepped up campaign against the Aqaba-bound ships and demanded an immediate end to what it called arbitrary actions being taken by the foreign naval forces against Jordan. The naval forces have been turning back vessels laden with food stuff and other items for Jordan in flagrant violation of free maritime operations and in total disregard for Jordan's sovereignty, said the daily. This harassment of Jordanian-bound shipping is meant as a dangerous move, manifesting a tendency to take revenge on Jordan for its national stand and to pressure this Kingdom into succumbing to other nations' desires and whims, said the daily. This harassment, it added, is bound to cause further economic hardships to the Kingdom which is overburdened with numerous headaches, it said. The paper said that in the space of one month the naval forces have turned back three cargo vessels carrying essential goods to Jordan under unconvincing pretexts. Jordan has been fully committed to the U.N. resolutions and has been honouring the embargo all along, especially with regard to the imported goods via Aqaba, the paper continued. It said that the naval blockade on Aqaba could be motivated by evil forces, hostile to the Kingdom and aiming to impoverish this country. One can only ask what objectives can be achieved by the U.S.-led naval forces through this continued harassment, knowing that the goods turned back are all essential food stuffs for the people of Jordan. The paper said that every possible way should be followed in order to end the harassment of Jordan which is totally committed to the international legitimacy and continuously honours all U.N. resolutions.

MAHMOUD RIMAWI, a columnist in Al Ra'i daily, demanded that Washington show more seriousness in matters related to the peace process in order to lure the parties to the talks. The writer said that Washington ought to stop playing the double standard role and adopt contradictory attitudes if it is really oriented towards achieving a lasting peace in the Middle East. First and foremost, the writer said, Washington should see to it that Resolution 799 is implemented so that the Palestinians can be persuaded to go to the negotiations, feeling no embarrassment before the Palestinian public. Washington should also make it clear that Resolution 242 still forms the basis for any solution which should be lasting, he said. The writer said that the Israelis should not be absolved of the sin of trying to impede progress in the peace process or of the atrocities committed against the Palestinians. He said the Arab foreign ministers meeting in Damascus should make these demands clear to the U.S. administration and should get a favourable response before they resume talks about the resumption of peace process.

Economic Forum

Privatisation reappraised

By Dr. Abdalla Malki

I follow up, with keen interest, the application by economic policies of various theories, as this represents some sort of experimentation that verifies these theories and determines how fit they are to survive and to address factual challenges. Supply-side economics, currency devaluation in developing countries, and floating of interest rates are examples of this brand of academics. Privatisation is another one.

This Thatcher-initiated Reagan-backed policy device was enthusiastically received in various countries and quarters and by numerous shades of opinion. Although it has abated in the West and to a lesser degree in developing countries, privatisation is still in its prime in the socialist and ex-socialist countries. As with so many other things, privatisation is easier and nicer said than practically applied.

In Jordan, it is interesting to notice that we have not taken one actual step in the field of privatisation although we have talked volumes about it. However, this delay may be useful if we can benefit from the experience of other countries in this field.

"Euromoney" published in its April 1993 issue an opinion on the lessons learned from the privatisation experiments of various countries. The related article was written by an "American merchant banker based in London" under the nickname of

Gallatin who chose to highlight the dangers of privatisation. The following paragraphs present the essence of that opinion.

Dangers that accompany privatisation may be macroeconomic dangers, which affect the country's economic viability or security, microeconomic dangers, that affect the health of the company being privatised, and dangers to the government's privatisation process if it is inadequately managed.

The cardinal danger is the threat of unemployment which materialises in almost all circumstances. Where unemployment is already a problem, privatisation can hardly be a consolation on whatever count. This applies to Jordan and is probably one reason why privatisation plans have not taken off.

Privatisation may cause the loss of control of a vital industry. In advanced economies, this poses less of a problem. In less advanced ones, it may be a mistake to let go too soon of a vital state asset.

Privatisation can cause disruption to the business being privatised. Small-scale businesses acquired by foreign or private investors may benefit. But in many other companies the results of lay-offs on a massive scale, the requirement to retool entire plants and the challenge of setting up new distribution systems will affect productivity over the long run. Indeed, the record of even

successful acquisitions in highly industrialised economies is mixed at best.

In the face of these three main dangers, Gallatin gives three major bits of advice. Governments must beware privatising lame-duck companies or companies in lame-duck industries. Second, they must be clear about their objectives which can range from receiving maximum privatisation proceeds to making an ideological break with state socialism; rarely only one objective is the motivating factor. Third, governments must decide whether the benefits of a privatisation outweigh the cost to society, especially in the likely level of unemployment that will ensue.

The conclusion?

As time goes on, privatisation will become ever-more imprudent. It is the motivations of privatising governments which will determine the privatisations of the future. The failure of state-imposed economics rules out the option of central planning but it may, in time, expose the weaknesses of total free-market capitalism. Governments will begin to act like any other shareholder. They will manage their industrial participations through a holding company, selling and buying stakes primarily on the basis of industrial and financial logic. Privatisation, no panacea, will become one option among many, for buyers and sellers alike.

Middle East: Clinton takes a sharp turn

By Stephen S. Rosenfeld

WASHINGTON — In no place is Bill Clinton diverging more from George Bush's foreign policy than in the Middle East. Perhaps this will work out well in the end, but at the moment it looks as though Mr. Clinton, who has said he believes he has "a real shot" at peace, has not begun hitting the target.

To judge by results, Mr. Bush had the right formula: Be demanding but fair with both Israel and the Arabs, and intervene assertively to move things along on all fronts. This is how he and his secretary of state, James Baker, created constituencies for negotiation in all the key places and moved on to launch broad Arab-Israeli peace talks.

In style, Mr. Clinton has, as he promised he would, replace Mr. Bush's steely (and to many Israelis, unyielding), evenhanded detachment from Israel with a public embrace. For the moment, this has calmed the alarm that Israelis feel whenever the United States closes in to shape their fate. Mr. Clinton's rhetoric is warm, he stresses the elements of cooperation in the relationship, and aid flows freely even in these austere times.

This week Mr. Clinton even repudiated an appeal by visiting President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt to seek a further "small step" from Israel on the boiling (for Arabs) issue of allowing the "immediate" repatriation of Palestinian deportees that the United Nations has ordered. Israel has already done "enough" to draw the Palestinians back to the peace table in Washington on April 20, Mr. Clinton said. The battered Mr. Mubarak was left to put a brave face on this rebuff to America's first friend in the Arab World.

In the substance of his diplomacy, Mr. Clinton seems to be stepping back from the Bush attempt to engage across the whole Arab-Israeli spectrum. Instead, he is moving towards an emphasis on a Syria-first strategy, leaving the Palestinians to be isolated.

Syria-first proceeds from a hard-headed reading — Yitzhak Rabin's reading — that Syria has lost its global patron, the Soviet Union, and has seen the shrinkage of its principal Arab rival, Iraq, and is ready for an American-expedited peace-for-territory swap on the model that Egypt and Israel fashioned 15 years ago.

Prime Minister Rabin has, with some boldness, started preparing the Israeli public to work with

Damascus. He prefers his old partner in Israeli-Syrian disengagement in the 1970s, President Hafez Al Assad, to the divided Palestinians. Mr. Rabin is under voter pressure for not delivering a quick agreement on Palestinian autonomy, and he could expect to profit from an early negotiation with Syria.

Meanwhile, Israel can always argue — this is the Middle East way — that turning to Syria and playing hard to get with the Palestinians is the best way to bring the Palestinians around.

You can see why Mr. Rabin and Mr. Clinton would be inclined to go down this road, especially if, as seems conceivable, Mr. Assad is prepared to cut a deal that leaves Palestinians in the lurch. Why should Israel be more solicitous of the Palestinians' interests than are their Arab brothers in Damascus?

It is a fair question, and there is a sobering answer: because Israel has far more at stake in accommodating the Palestinians than Syria does. For the Syrians the Palestinians are a pest. For the Israelis they are literally the bane of their existence. However, tattered their policy and status at any given moment, Palestinians represent in Arab politics an overwhelming symbol of loss to western intrusion. Whether Palestinians can find their political progress is not.

Mr. Rabin looks at the favourable strategic circumstances, at Palestinian violence and division and at the gathering political clouds at home on his right. He is sorely tempted to go for the deal with Syria, as Menachem Begin went for the deal with Egypt, and to slow the dealing with the Palestinians. As short-term policy it is defensible.

But the United States has its own responsibilities as Israel's abiding friend and also as leading arbiter of Middle East stability. It should be using the strategic advantages to address the whole Middle East problem and not just part of it. It should be giving Israel the full and tough support that will enable it to take the further risks of engagement with the Palestinians. It should be extending, to coexistence and democracy-minded Palestinians, respect for their political rights.

It has taken 15 years since Egypt and Israel made peace to get into position for a second slice. The opening is there if Mr. Clinton wants to help — The Washington Post.

Publishers bank on the awakening of Islam in Europe

By Tom Porteous

CAMBRIDGE, England — The esoteric logo of the Islamic Texts Society above the Green Street Bookshop in the heart of this ancient university city is a palm tree bearing two fat bunches of dates, with a crescent moon on one side and a burning sun on the other. The sign is made of finely worked metal coated in gold. Harking back to an earlier age of arcane symbolism, the insignia blends perfectly with the collegial medieval architecture and spiritual ethos of the university.

It is part of an eye for detail and excellence of design, which, in the decade since its foundation, has set the Islamic Texts Society among the most successful small publishing houses in Britain. In 1991 the society won a British Book Design Award for its English edition of the "innovations" of Hamid Al Ghazali, the 11th century Muslim theologian and mystic. This year, a new publication has been named winner of the same award, and the society is on the short list for the Sunday Times Small Publisher Award.

Such recognition from the arbiters of publishing standards in Britain is exceptional. It is all the more remarkable for a publishing house that specialises in Islamic theology and mysticism, with the aim of promoting "greater understanding of Islam in the West" through publishing English translations of works of traditional importance to the faith and culture of the Islamic.

"The first aim," said society director Abd Al Rahman Azzam, "was to make available in a bookshop the vast corpus of Islamic literature which had never been available to western readers. There were plenty of books on Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism, but nothing on medieval Islamic thought." It was in this spirit that, when it opened in 1981, the society started publishing translations of Al Ghazali's 40-volume "Revival of Religious Sciences," a seminal text of Islamic mystical theology. So far, three volumes have appeared.

"One day you will be able to get immediate access to the top thinkers of Islam in English," Mr. Azzam said. "You'll be able to go into a shop and pick up Al Ghazali in the same way as you can now pick up Plato or Aristotle."

In addition to publishing about eight books a year, the society's Green Street bookshop stocks a wide range of books on Islam and the Muslim world. It claims to be able to supply customers all over the world with any available book on Islam. But, as the society's director explains, the founders and patrons of the Islamic Texts Society had another aim based on specific views about the changing role of Islam in the West and the

importance to Islam of the emerging community of European Muslims.

"The second aim of the society," Mr. Azzam said, "was to provide a platform for western Muslims to prove that Islam is not a religion based in the East or an Arab religion, but a universal one. There are many British, European and American Muslims who want to articulate this, and the society has made available the works of modern western Muslims like Martin Lings — whose 'Life of the Prophet Mohammad' has been reprinted several times — or Titus Burkhardt, Gal Eaton and European Muslim thinkers who wanted to express the mystical dimension that had attracted them to Islam."

This aspect gives the Islamic Texts Society its distinctive quality, setting it apart from the majority of Islamic publishing houses. According to its regular Muslim customers, the high quality of the society's books, the awards and the prominent profile are indicative of the cultural importance, intellectual vitality and moral confidence of a new European Muslim community.

"What we are witnessing is the birth of Islam in Europe," said Mr. Azzam, whose grandfather was a prominent Egyptian statesman and one of the founders of the Arab League. "It is very interesting and exciting because the leading intellectuals of Islam are now based in the West." He compares the phenomenon to the early spread of Islam in the 7th and 8th centuries in Persia, Africa and Spain, when the religion permeated and integrated with the culture of its host country.

"There is a great difference between Muslim Indonesian culture and Muslim African culture," Mr. Azzam said, "but it's all one religion. What is happening now is that you have a growing number of European Muslims in Europe, many of them of Asian or Arab parentage, but completely westernised, completely confident with the West, without the colonial complexes which their grandfathers may have had or which Muslims in the Muslim World may still have. These western Muslims know exactly what they want. They can see that the West is crumbling morally. We are witnessing the birth of the European Muslim movement and this society is one of its voices."

Mr. Azzam sees no similarities between the Islamic awakening in Europe and the growth of Islamic fundamentalism in the Middle East and North Africa. Indeed, he says, political Islam may be one of the reasons why intellectual debate among Muslims in the Arab World is debased at present and much less dynamic and productive than is debate among Muslims in Europe. "If you look back fifty or a hundred years, there were quite a few Muslim

intellectuals in Egypt, which is supposed to be the intellectual centre of the Arab World," Mr. Azzam said. "Today, there are no Muslim thinkers or writers there worth their weight. The debate in the Muslim World is a purely political debate. People in government and opposition are using Islam as a political tool, just as they used to use Arab socialism."

According to Mr. Azzam, Muslim fundamentalism is the product of social and economic conditions. If conditions were improved, fundamentalism would cease to be a problem. "If you gave young people an opportunity to work, you would remove their frustrations, and they would stop agitating," he said. "What we do see in these Muslim countries is an intellectual response to fundamentalism, which is sad."

Unburdened by pressing political, economic and social concerns, the Islamic debate in Europe has its starting point not in social and economic degradation but with the search of well-educated European Muslims for a spiritual path. With the majority of the community of Asian or African descent, they find themselves caught between East and West, conversant with the customs and styles of both but looking for something universal that transcends regional and racial barriers. "Intellectually, they are looking for answers," Mr. Azzam said. "These people have chosen Islam because of its mystical dimensions and because they found that the Christian church, fragmented by the rearguard action it is fighting against secularism, no longer answers their needs. Through Islam, Muslims have articulated answers to specific questions, like how one can practice his faith in a secular world."

This rationale gives the publications of the Islamic Texts Society — and the books it stocks — a distinctly mystical flavour. In addition to Al Ghazali's "Revival of the Religious Sciences" (Ihya' Ulum Al Din), the society's books include such classic titles as "The Secret of Secrets" by the 12th century Muslim saint Abd Al Qadir Al Jilani; the famous "Treatise on the Foundations of Islamic Jurisprudence" by Al Imam Al Shafi'i, who founded one of the four schools of Islamic law in the 2nd century of the Muslim era; Al Tabari's commentary on the Qur'an; and Imam Al Bayhaqi's "Seventy-Seven Branches of the Faith."

The society's modern titles include some of the most original, profound texts written on Islamic mysticism — many by European Muslims. Among this year's titles will be the first full English biography of the Andalusian mystic, Al Shaikh Al Akbar Mohieddin Ibn Arabi. A new work on the extraordinary Moroccan saint and hermit Moulay Abdessalam

Abu Madyan is also planned. A new series of monographs on Muslim masters will give readers access to concise biographies of personalities who have shaped Islam, including founders of the religion, statesmen, thinkers, travelers and reformers.

Another of this year's publications underline the society's ability to plug its spiritual agenda into more superficial market trends. When Mr. Azzam's grandfather was secretary general of the Arab League in the 1940s, he wrote a book on Islam called "The Eternal Message." Later, when he was at the United Nations, he met Malcolm X, the Black American Muslim radical. The two apparently became friends, and, after reading "The Eternal Message," Malcolm X began to turn away from the radical, anti-white movement — the Nation of Islam — of which he had become a chief spokesman; he later moved towards a more spiritual interpretation of Islam.

"This was the book that really changed Malcolm X's life," said Mr. Azzam, who has republished his grandfather's book to coincide with the release of Spike Lee's controversial film biography of Malcolm X, "Malcolm X: The Life of a Man of Faith." The Islamic Texts Society has sold several copies of the book in prepublication orders.

The society, which was founded as an educational, charitable organisation, depended on donations from wealthy Muslims who support its agenda worldwide. Two years ago, the society became a commercial concern, and, judging from its present performance, Mr. Azzam predicts that within two or three years it will be breaking even. If correct, it will be a stunning achievement in a climate of economic recession that has hit the publishing world particularly badly.

Being based in the West, the society is aware that what attracts the westerner to Islam and what attracts the born Muslim living in the West looking for a spiritual path is the mystical dimension. "The social dimension is simply missing here in the West," Mr. Azzam said, "so the vast majority of the books requested are those that speak of Islam as a spiritual path." Yet, Mr. Azzam added, with the spirituality of Islam taking root in the West, the social dimension may become more important as European Muslims permeate the society in which they live. "You're getting a lot of intellectual, middle-class jobs filled with ambitious, articulate Muslims, and this is a very encouraging sign. In 30 or 40 years' time, you will have a lot of Muslims at different and important levels of society who will, through the democratic process, be able to influence and model society, just as the Jews have done for centuries" — World News Link.

Ukraine likely to ratify START-I, problems remain

By John Morrison
Reuters

KIEV — After months of delay, Ukraine now looks ready to ratify the START-I treaty, but uncertainty over the nuclear weapons left on its territory by the breakup of the Soviet Union is likely to remain.

President Leonid Kravchuk has told Reuters that he expected parliament to begin discussing the treaty on April 21.

"It will be ratified. I have no doubt at all," Mr. Kravchuk predicted.

Officials told Reuters that closed committee hearings were basically complete and parliament's presidium would decide by Monday whether to put the treaty on next week's agenda.

It is not yet clear if parliament will simultaneously ratify the so-

called Lisbon Protocol signed a year ago which commits Ukraine to giving up all its nuclear arms and joining the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

Ukraine's ratification of both documents would put in place a missing piece of a complex international arms control jigsaw.

Western diplomats in Kiev predict ratification on START-I, but they caution that big problems remain to be solved before all the nuclear weapons in Ukraine are finally dismantled sometime in the 1990s.

At stake are 130 SS-19 and 46 SS-24 multiple-warhead strategic missiles, and a number of air-launched nuclear cruise missiles carried on TU-95 Bear and PU-160 Blackjack heavy bombers. Tactical nuclear arms were withdrawn to Russia in 1992.

According to the Moscow newspaper Izvestia there are around 1,200 strategic missile warheads and more than 600 air-launched cruise missile warheads in Ukraine.

Russia has accused Ukraine of trying to become a nuclear power through the back door by claiming ownership of the weapons.

Mr. Kravchuk vigorously denied this in his interview, describing the Russian charges as "deliberate falsification."

He said Ukraine was claiming ownership not of the warheads themselves, but only of "components" — the valuable fissile material which Kiev hopes to recover when they are dismantled.

He scoffed at the idea of Ukraine hanging on to the missiles as an independent nuclear

power — an idea which some nationalist politicians have advocated to bolster their country's security against Russia.

"Every sensible person knows that all the electronic circuits, everything which controls the warheads are in Moscow and Ukraine can not change that, even if it wanted to."

"For Ukraine to have its own nuclear forces it would have to take the warheads off and replace them with its own, produced in Ukraine. We have neither the nuclear industry nor the intention to do this," Mr. Kravchuk said.

Mr. Kravchuk said Ukraine would continue to refuse demands from Moscow that the weapons, now under the command of the Commonwealth of Independent States, should be placed under Russian command.

"A change of status would mean a host of political and legal problems. If the nuclear forces in Ukraine become Russian, then the forces servicing them would be Russian. So the problem arises of the status of troops of another state on Ukrainian territory," Mr. Kravchuk explained.

Ukraine's complaint is that the United States is looking at the nuclear issue through Russian eyes and ignoring Kiev's security interests.

Mr. Kravchuk made clear he was bitter at strong diplomatic pressure from Washington to speed up ratification of START-I, which cannot enter into force until Ukraine approves it.

He also said that implementation of the treaty would depend on Ukraine getting satisfaction on its demands for better security

guarantees and financial compensation for voluntarily renouncing the world's third biggest nuclear arsenal.

"We will not take a single step backwards, no matter whom it pleases or displeases. We are defending Ukrainian interests," he declared.

The U.S. has promised Ukraine \$175 million to help dismantle the weapons while Ukraine has mentioned sums running into billions of dollars. Ukraine is also unhappy with the level of security guarantees that the U.S. and other nuclear powers are prepared to offer.

Washington and Moscow want to push ahead with ratification of far deeper cut in nuclear arms agreed under the START-2 treaty, and are showing increasing impatience with Ukraine.

مكتبة مركز الأمل

Decision on talks due today

(Continued from page 1)

PLO and the negotiating team say the conviction that the U.S. administration would make significant overtures to the Palestinians was underscored by Mr. Musa of Egypt, who told Jordan Radio Tuesday that the U.S. administration has promised to announce specific measures which it will carry out if the peace process resumes.

Mubarak sends message to King

(Continued from page 1)

Petra said the Crown Prince's talks with Mr. Arafat and Mr. Musa, attended by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Royal Court Chief Khaled Al Karaki, acting Foreign Minister Yassir Hammad, the Palestinian ambassador to Jordan and the Egyptian charge d'affaires, focused on the suffering of the Palestinian people under occupation and the need for consultations and coordination among the various Arab parties concerned.

Meanwhile, the contents of Mr. Mubarak's message to King Hussein remained a closely-guarded secret, with little to indicate whether it was directly and exclusively related to the peace process or had wider implications on the overall state of Jordanian-Egyptian and Jordanian-Arab relations.

In comments to reporters in Cairo and in Amman, Mr. Musa would only say that it was linked to "the peace process and Arab coordination" as well as "the situation in the Arab region."

Mr. Musa said his visit to Jordan was aimed at "ensuring the resumption of the peace talks."

The Egyptian minister, in comments carried by Petra, expressed hope that the negotiations would resume soon.

"It won't be today, but there will be soon and I think it will be soon," he told reporters.

There will be a decision shortly. Let us hope for the best and be optimistic about the future."

Later, Egyptian Minister Sand Al Faisal, in a meeting in Cairo Sunday night with Faisal Al Hussein, head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, offered to extend financial assistance to the Palestinians living in the occupied territories through the PLO and to urge other Gulf states to follow suit, Palestinian sources said in Amman, confirming reports from Cairo.

As the first step, Saudi Arabia would ask the Gulf states to release the PLO "liberation tax" collected from Palestinian expatriates, the sources said. The tax is levied by host governments from Palestinian workers at five per cent of their annual salaries and used to be remitted to the PLO until the Gulf crisis.

The Saudi gesture to ensure the release of the money and extend further aid to the Palestinians was seen as a "positive step" in the PLO's efforts to resume peace talks.

Despite the strain in relations, King Fahd said he would continue to support the PLO and the Palestinian people.

and indeed the disparity of living conditions between the Palestinian and the Israeli is 20 to 1 today. It is that disparity that has to be attended to, but has to be an expression of will by everyone concerned in the region, and indeed by the sponsor. That is to say we have yet to see the fulfillment of that role of full partner that the U.S. has promised."

Some headline critics of the PLO chairman went to the extent of describing the Amman deliberations as "exercise in theatrics."

"Arafat alone decides if the Palestinians are going or not; he does not need to consult anyone — that's just a show for the public," asserted an official of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), which opposes the peace process in its present format and conditions.

At least half of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks appears to share part of the PFLP argument; and they are the ones demanding more explicit U.S. assurances and Israeli undertakings, according to the sources.

"The Palestinian negotiating team will lose all credibility among the people of the occupied territories if we return to the peace talks without any improvement of conditions on the ground," said negotiator Ghassan Khatib before leaving for Washington for talks with U.S. State Department officials earlier this month.

Sources close to the negotiating team said Tuesday night that Mr. Khatib, along with another six of his colleagues in the delegation, including chief negotiator Haidar Abdul Shafi may not attend the talks if better terms are not assured regardless of the attendance of other members of the 14-member team to the bilateral talks.

While Mr. Arafat is still seeking written assurances from the U.S. PLO insiders believe that the Saudi bid to reinstitute the imposition of a five per cent PLO tax on Palestinians living in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf and a pledge to reinstate \$42 million of monthly support for the Palestinians living under occupation is a lever for the cash-strapped Palestinian community living under occupation and for the PLO leadership in Tunis.

"This aid will alleviate some of the economic suffering of the Palestinians under occupation and thus we have gotten at least some of the concessions we were asking for," said a PLO official.

Members of the Palestinian negotiating team who met with U.S. State Department officials earlier this month discussed financial and economic aid to the Palestinians under occupation. "Aid from the Gulf was mentioned on our agenda with Amer-

icans," said one Palestinian advisor to the talks.

But even with such aid some Palestinian negotiators are likely to stay away from the talks without more gestures from the Americans and Israelis before April 27.

"Some of them are just plain scared that the American promises will turn out to be empty. If they are the negotiators who go to Washington may not be able to face the people in the occupied territories even," said a source close to the delegation.

"Too many Palestinians remember American promises to protect Palestinian civilians in Lebanon after the PLO left. They remember that those promises bore fruit in Sabra and Shatila," said the PLO source referring to the massacre of hundreds of Palestinian civilians in the two camps in Beirut.

Agencies add: Arabs meeting in Damascus decide whether to resume peace talks with Israel started to draft a final statement Tuesday, suggesting they were almost ready to announce agreement to attend.

"We decided to form a committee to draft the final communiqué and we will hold a session tomorrow morning at 11 a.m. (0800 GMT) to announce the decision," Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharara told reporters.

Asked whether the meeting had agreed Arabs should resume the peace talks, Lebanese Foreign Minister Fares Bouez said in Arabic "trust God," an expression which usually means "be optimistic."

Mr. Arafat himself said the Palestinians needed public assurances from the United States on basic issues before agreeing to resume negotiations with Israel.

"The decision is linked to removing the obstacles," Mr. Arafat told Jordan Television when asked whether Palestinians would agree to attend the talks.

"We are insisting on getting assurances... on the point of reference of the talks including land for peace. (U.N. resolutions) 242 and 338, the political rights of the Palestinian people, and Jerusalem," he said.

Asked whether he needed written assurances from the U.S. sponsors of the peace process, Mr. Arafat said they must at least be made public.

Israel will attend the peace talks at any date but rules out "concessions"

Islamic Group, police said Tuesday.

The attack on Shehata Aziz Guirgis took place in Dairut, near the Muslim fundamentalist stronghold of Assiut.

Two gunmen entered the author's house and one of them shot him before they escaped. Mr. Guirgis, who has won a national award for his writing, was treated at a local hospital.

Sharif
(Continued from page 1)

ment offered from the dismissal of the former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's government in 1990, Mr. Sharif said, because her government was bogged down by constitutional questions.

Mr. Ishaq Khan "has damaged the national interest. The economy was going up... my government had done extremely well."

"The battle has started," he said in a reference to moves by Parliamentary Speaker Gohar Ayub Khan

throw the government and establish an Iran-like theocracy, immediately claimed it carried out the assassination attempt.

"We claim responsibility for the attack on Sarwat Al Sherif because of his comments against us last week... and we will continue our march against the enemies of Islam, however much it costs us," said Mohammad Sayed Selim, head of the Al Gamaa's military wing.

This statement was relayed by phone to reporters in Assiut, a hotbed of Muslim extremism, 300 kilometres south of Cairo.

The gunmen were waiting for Mr. Sherif in front of his home in the Heliopolis suburb. They started shooting after he got into the car, eyewitnesses said. Two gunmen opened fire and fled in a car driven by a third man, security sources said.

Late Monday, a Coptic Christian author was shot in the shoulder in an assassination bid in southern Egypt blamed on the

Islamic Group, police said Tuesday.

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Sharif
(Continued from page 1)

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Jordan, Syria draw 2-2

By Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan and Syria Tuesday drew 2-2 in a friendly soccer match held on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of His Majesty King Hussein's assumption of constitutional powers.

The match, sponsored by Al Ra'i Arabic daily, and held at Al Hassan Sport City in Irbid, was attended by Her Royal Highness Princess Haya, Minister of Youth Saleh Irshaidat and over 7,000 soccer fans.

Although the game was slow and uninteresting in the first half, both teams upgraded their performance in the remaining part of the match which witnessed a total of four goals.

Nart Yada and Aref Hussein led the Jordanian team's attacks but the first goal was scored late in the first half by Subhi Suleiman in the 44th minute.

Yada was substituted by Jordan's top striker Jiryes Tadros in the second half as the Kingdom's team played a faster game and mounted all-out attacks on the Syrian goal, depending on cohesive teamwork.

The visiting team mainly relied on individual efforts of their players and scored the equalizing goal in the 59th minute by Mustafa Qadeer. Ten minutes later close-guarded teammate Nizar Mahrouq passed the ball to Munaf Ramadan who scored a beautiful goal to give Syria a 2-1 lead.

Jordan scored the equalizing goal in the 76th minute when Hisham Abdul Mun'em blasted a shot from well outside the penalty box, however the shot was too powerful for Syria's goalkeeper Salem Bitar, who dropped the ball as Jordan's alert Aref Hussein scored the match's final goal.

Syria's Anas Makhlof and Mahrouq repeatedly tried to score a third goal, as did Jordan's Mousa Awad. However the match ended in a 2-2 draw.

The match is one of a series of friendlies both teams are playing in preparation for the World Cup qualifying round next month. Jordan had won 3-2 in an earlier match in the Syrian capital.

Maradona suspended

MADRID (AFP) — Argentinian stars Diego Maradona and Diego Simeone of Sevilla have been suspended by the Spanish Football Federation Monday for failing to appear at a disciplinary hearing.

They were due to be questioned over fighting which broke out among players following a league match between Cadiz and Sevilla March 21.

Club trainer Carlos Bilardo, his assistant Miguel Angel Lemme and club president Luis Cuervas were also suspended for failing to appear.

The players will not be allowed to play and the trainers not sit on the bench until the suspension is lifted.

All five have been ordered to appear before a new hearing next Wednesday.

N'Deti, Markova win Boston Marathon

BOSTON (R) — Unheralded Cosmas N'Deti of Kenya exceeded his own expectations and surprised the strongest field in many years to win the 97th Boston Marathon Monday, while Russian Olga Markova defended her women's title in a runaway.

While the women's race was devoid of drama with Markova leading from start to finish and winning by more than 4½ minutes, for the men it was a battle to the end by a threesome of relative unknowns who rose to the occasion against a world class field.

N'Deti, who makes his home in Liverpool, England, won his first Boston Marathon in a respectable, but far from blistering two hours nine minutes 33 seconds.

The finish, however, was perhaps the most dramatic in Boston since 1988, when the margin of victory was a single second, as the top three places changed hands three times with less than three miles (4.8 km) to go and N'Deti held on to win by just 10 seconds.

But rather than outpacing the favorites, who included three-time and defending champion Ibrahim Hussein of Kenya, David Tsebe of South Africa, who ran the fastest marathon last year, and Hiromi Taniguchi of Japan, ranked number-one in the world in 1992, N'Deti outdistanced Kim Jae-Yong of South Korea, who took second, and Lucketz Swartbooi of Namibia, who was third.

Hussein dropped out of the hunt for his fourth Boston victory at mile 18 (29 km) suffering from a pain in his side, and of the pre-race favorites, only Taniguchi finished in the top-10. He was fourth, nearly a 1½ minutes off the pace.

"I was derailed by that side stitch," said Hussein.

Uncomfortably warm temperatures for a marathon — around 70 degrees (21° C) by the end

of the race — also took its toll on some of the favorites.

"I think we underestimated the weather," added Hussein.

N'Deti, 30, made his move at mile 24 to pass Kim. One mile (1.6 km) later he passed Swartbooi, who had held what seemed a comfortable lead from about the halfway point.

Then Kim, who looked to be struggling as he came off the notorious "heartbreak hill" at mile 21 (33.8 km), found a third wind to overtake Swartbooi in the last mile.

"My expectation was only to try to run to qualify for the World Championships," said a delighted N'Deti.

"My friend Benson Masya helped me very much," he said of his compatriot who assisted with N'Deti's pacing.

"When we were around four miles to go, I just pushed," he said.

N'Deti said one look at his chief rival told him that victory was within reach.

"When I came up beside him (Swartbooi), I looked in his face to know if I could beat him," he said. "I knew I could."

Swartbooi, asked if he was surprised at his performance in his first Boston Marathon, replied: "Yes, of course. I wanted to be in a good position only."

Markova, who won with a time of 2:25:27, said through a translator that the victory "took away the pain of not winning in the Olympics."

Markova skipped her nation's Olympic trials for the Barcelona games to compete here in 1992 and went on to record the fastest time of the year.

American Kim Jones was second in the women's race in 2:30:00 and Carmen de Oliveira of Brazil was third in 2:31:18.

The winners each received \$65,000.

Leconte's at his best again

MONACO (Agencies) — Henri Leconte has a habit of producing his best in front of the Monaco crowds and he did it again Monday by beating 41st ranked Jakob Hlasek of Switzerland.

Veteran Leconte, a semi-finalist at last year's French Open and ranked 77th in the world, fired up the crowd with a typical fast-pumping performance at the Monte Carlo Open to win 6-3, 7-6 and move towards a second round showdown with top seed Stefan Edberg.

Edberg, along with the rest of the top seeds which include Boris Becker, Petr Korda, and Goran Ivanisevic, all received first-round byes.

For Leconte, playing his fifth tournament of the year, it was only his second win. He previously defeated Christo van Rensburg of South Africa in Marseille in February.

Leconte said: "It is difficult to play against Jakob because he is my friend but I am very happy because I haven't won a match for so long."

"It's going to be much more spectacular tomorrow when I play Edberg."

Leconte's Davis Cup teammate Guy Forget, the 12th seed, reached the second round by beating Croatian Goran Prpic 6-4, 6-4 but seeded Frenchman Arnaud Boetsch (15) fell 3-6, 6-4, 6-1 to Marcelo Filippini of Uruguay.

Ninth seeded Richard Krajicek of the Netherlands, the highest



Henri Leconte

ranked player in action Monday, advanced to the second round to join two former champions Andrei Chesnokov of Russia and Sergei Bruguera of Spain.

Krajicek ousted German Bernd Karbacher, 6-1, 6-2. Chesnokov, the 1990 winner, beat Luis Mattar of Brazil, 6-0, 6-4 while Bruguera the champion two years ago, topped Italian Renzo Furlan, 6-4, 6-4.

Chesnokov has dropped to No. 57 in the rankings and barely made it into the main draw after another former champion, Alberto Mancini, dropped out with an

injury. Bruguera is seeded 11th.

In other first round matches involving seeds, Carlos Costa of Spain, the 14th seed, downed Danish qualifier Frederik Fetterlein, 6-3, 6-1 and Spain's Javier Sanchez ousted No. 16 Fabrice Santoro of France, 6-4, 3-6, 7-5 in a match that went nearly three hours and ended after 10 p.m. at night under the lights.

Two other Frenchmen lost. Tom Nijssen of the Netherlands beat Olivier Delatre, 3-6, 6-4, 6-1, Andrei Cherkasov of Russia defeated Rodolphe Gilbert, 3-6, 6-3, 6-2.

SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

'Brazil will return to offensive play'

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — After a failed attempt to play European-style soccer, Brazil will return to its roots, national team coach Carlos Alberto Parreira said Monday. "Brazilians can't play in a straightjacket," Parreira said at a news conference. "We play better when we're loose, free and spontaneous." Parreira took charge of the national team last year, and has compiled a 10-3-2 record. He replaced Sebastiao Lazaroni, who quit after Brazil was eliminated from the 1990 World Cup by losing 1-0 to Argentina. Lazaroni tried to impose a more defensive, European-style to the team. A three-time world champion, Brazil is the only country to have qualified for every World Cup. Though early, Parreira said that England, Germany, Argentina and Italy would be strong contenders for the 1994 World Cup in the United States.

Platt back for Juventus amid transfer speculation

ROME (R) — England captain David Platt has been recalled by Juventus for Thursday's UEFA Cup semifinal tie against French side Paris St. Germain but is still uncertain about his future at the club. Platt, dropped for the most recent Juventus league wins against Torino and AC Milan, is included because German defender Juergen Koehler is suspended, but is well aware of speculation he may be sold to Sampdoria. Juventus take a 2-1 advantage to Paris but coach Giovanni Trapattoni has had to completely reshuffle his side. As well as Koehler, midfielders Dino Baggio and Antonio Conte are also suspended. Platt will accordingly play in an unusual midfield trio alongside Gianluca Viali, normally a striker, and defender Giancarlo Marocchi.

Hero Morrow out of FA Cup

LONDON (AFP) — Steve Morrow, scorer of Arsenal's winning goal in Sunday's League Cup final, is out of the FA Cup final after breaking his arm. The young Ulsterman, Arsenal's match-winner in the 2-1 triumph against Sheffield Wednesday, needed surgery on his upper arm soon after the final whistle. Team celebrations got carried away as the player fell after being lifted up in triumph by captain Tony Adams. Morrow was carried from the Wembley pitch while his stunned colleagues climbed the famous Royal Box steps to collect the trophy.

Whitaker to face Cesar Chavez for WBC title

NEW YORK (AP) — Pernell Whitaker agreed Monday to put his World Boxing Council welterweight championship on the line Sept. 10 against undefeated Julio Cesar Chavez in the Alamodome at San Antonio, Texas, according to promoter Don King. Chavez, the undefeated WBC super lightweight champion from Mexico, is 86-0 with 74 knockouts. Whitaker is 32-1 with 15 knockouts. Both are five-time world champions in three weight classes.

Sweden want Brolin, Thern free for France game

STOCKHOLM (R) — Sweden have asked Italian clubs Napoli and Parma to rest key players Jonas Thern and Tomas Brolin ahead of their World Cup qualifier against France April 28, national team coach Tommy Svensson said Tuesday. Assuming midfielders Brolin and Thern attend, Svensson will have the full complement of Sweden's overseas players available for the crucial game at the Parc des Princes in Paris. They include Martin Dahlin, who scored twice for Borussia Moenchengladbach against Bayern Munich in the Bundesliga last weekend, and Roland Nilsson of English Premier League side Sheffield Wednesday. Anders Limpar is also in the 18-man squad named by Svensson.

World Tennis Rankings

Top 15 world tennis rankings according to the list issued by the Women's Tennis Association and the men's ATP tour:

1. Monica Seles (Yugoslavia) 328.19 pts.
2. Steffi Graf (Germany) 299.98.
3. Arantxa Sanchez (Spain) 217.44.
4. Martina Navratilova (USA) 195.23
5. Gabriela Sabatini (Argentina) 163.68
6. Mary Joe Fernandez (USA) 118.69
7. Jennifer Capriati (USA) 117.28
8. Conchita Martinez (Spain) 105.82
9. Jana Novotna (Czech) 94.47
10. Manuela Maleeva-Fragniere (Swiss) 75.70
11. Anke Huber (Germany) 75.59
12. Amanda Coetzer (S. Africa) 65.43
13. Nathalie Tauziat (France) 64.01
14. Magdalena Maleeva (Bulgaria) 63.70
15. Helena Sukova (Czech) 60.81.

1. Pete Sampras (USA) 3,826 pts
2. Jim Courier (USA) 3,517
3. Stefan Edberg (Sweden) 2,985
4. Boris Becker (Germany) 2,680
5. Petr Korda (Czech) 2,452
6. Goran Ivanisevic (Croatia) 2,294
7. Andre Agassi (USA) 2,213
8. Ivan Lendl (USA) 2,168
9. Michael Chang (USA) 1,853
10. Michael Stich (Germany) 1,801
11. Andrei Medvedev (Ukraine) 1,721
12. Thomas Muster (Austria) 1,659
13. Richard Krajicek (Neth) 1,610
14. Karel Novacek (Czech) 1,571
15. Wayne Ferreira (S. Africa) 1,564

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMMAM HIRSH
Tribune Media Services, Inc.

JUST ONE MOMENT IN TIME

East-West vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ K 2
♥ Q 9 3
♦ Q 6 4 3
♣ J 10 5 4

WEST
♠ A J 10 4 3
♥ 7 4
♦ K 10 9 5 2
♣ K

EAST
♠ Q 8 5 5
♥ A 6 2
♦ J 8 7
♣ Q 6 3

SOUTH
♠ 7 6
♥ K J 10 8 5
♦ A
♣ A 9 8 7 2

The bidding:
South West North East
1♥ 1♠ 1NT 2♠
3♠ 3♦ 4♥ Pass

Pass Pass

Opening lead: Five of ♠

Chess players are acutely aware of the importance of timing, more so than most bridge enthusiasts.

Transposing moves in an opening and you might open the way for a foray by your opponent. This hand demonstrates that playing suits in the right order can be equally critical at bridge.

When South showed a good, distributional hand by bidding a new suit at the three-level in a competitive auction, North threw away the

book on point count and bid a game because of the double fit. Sadly, the operation was successful, but the patient died.

West led a low diamond to declarer's ace. A heart to the queen lost to the ace, and declarer ruffed the diamond return. After drawing the outstanding trumps, declarer cashed the ace of clubs and snared the king.

Eager to take as many tricks as possible, declarer continued with a club to the jack and queen. East forced out declarer's last trump by persisting with a diamond, and West took the last two tricks with the ace of spades and a high diamond—down one. The fulfilling trick, the king of spades, withered on the vine.

See the difference if, after dropping the king of clubs, South were to lead a spade instead of setting up the clubs. West can take the ace, but has no good return. A spade will leave South with a trump after dislodging the queen of clubs. A diamond establishes dummy's queen to thwart any further assault on declarer's trump holding.

Oddly, even if the queen of diamonds were a low spot, the contract would still come home. East would be unable to return a diamond after winning the queen of clubs, so heads you win tails they lose.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 21, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: With the New Moon and Sun in Taurus you will have some opportunity to forge ahead with new, inspired goals with less drawbacks than usual. Speak your ideas frankly and expect to receive assistance from unexpected sources.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) A plan to in some way to extend your activities takes a different course so go along with it and in the evening do nothing to upset one in authority.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You can have a money matter arise early that can be upsetting but get it behind you sensibly and tonight don't go off on any tangent.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) The actions of an associate can throw you for a loop if you allow but maintain poise and tonight clearly understand whatever your mate says to you.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Whatever your activities are the day you find some revision of plans are necessary and in the evening a calculating associate can upset you.

LEO: (July 22 August 21) Arrangements concerning money matters take a strange morning, stance so be careful with them while in the evening take more than usual care of your health.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You want to make some drastic

and dramatic changes in the morning but it is not in your best interest while tonight avoid a recreation you usually like.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You don't see how you can solve an issue that bugs you can't so put it aside for the moment and tonight use much care about a confusing situation at home.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) An acquaintance can cause you no end of trouble in the morning so avoid such a person, while tonight be sure you communicate your views exactly.

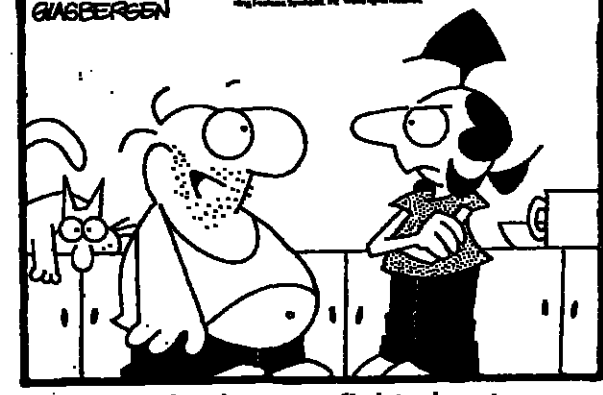
SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Use care today to do nothing that can disturb the views or mood of one of influenced while in the evening use care in your financial commitment.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Avoid a newcomer with a glib tongue early in the day while in the afternoon, evening your judgment and intuition are not on the beam.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Don't take up commitments you've made or wish to make with business persons now and in the evening sidestep a secret anxiety that obsesses you.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) A partner can throw you for a loss early in the day so don't be influenced by this person while in the evening you need to use much care on the highway.

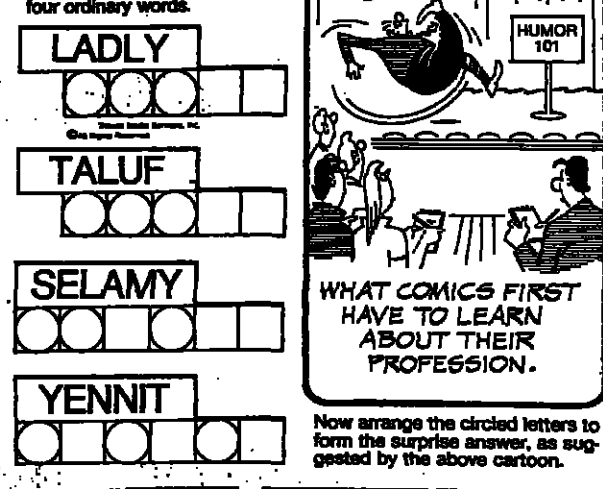
THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



"I like it when we fight about my old girlfriends. It makes me feel desirable!"

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



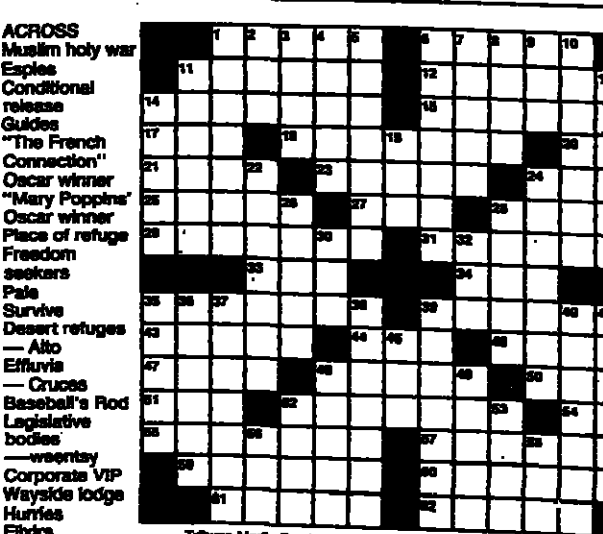
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: THE "CUBIC MOUSE MORBID PONCHO"

Yesterday's Jumble: CUBIC MOUSE MORBID PONCHO

Answer: What those cows enjoyed — "MOO'D MOO-SIC"

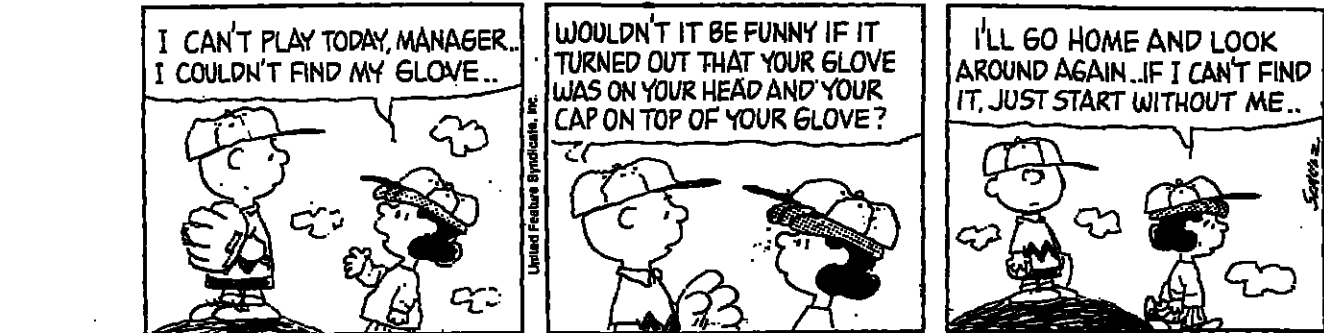
THE Daily Crossword by Roger Jurgovan



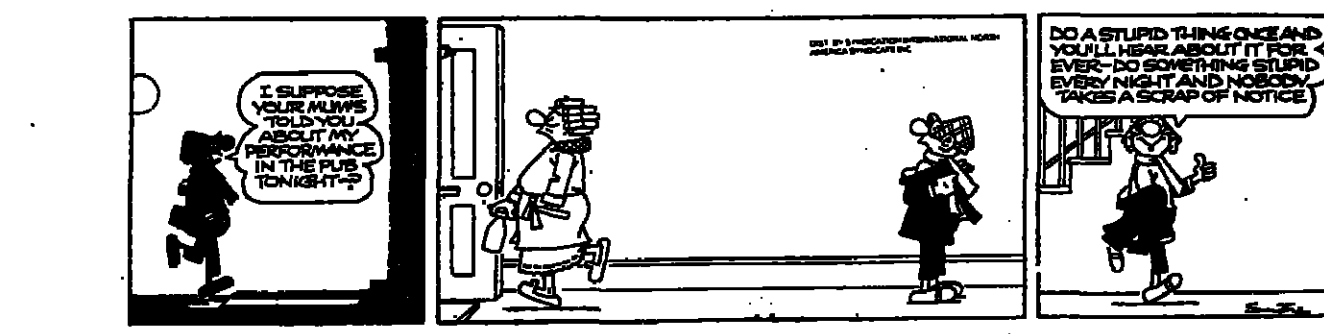
Yesterday's Puzzle Solvers:

ALICE	SPACER	MIAMI	40 "Hamlet" Oscar	48 Dashing man
ALICE	SPACER	MIAMI	41 Certain ship	49 Street lights
ALICE	SPACER	MIAMI	42 42 doz	50 52 doz
ALICE	SPACER	MIAMI	43 Reference bit	51 53 Reference bit
ALICE	SPACER	MIAMI	44 56 doz	52 56 doz
ALICE	SPACER	MIAMI	45 Victory	53 56 doz
ALICE	SPACER	MIAMI		54 56 doz
ALICE	SPACER	MIAMI		55 56 doz
ALICE	SPACER	MIAMI		56 56 doz
ALICE	SPACER	MIAMI		57 56 doz
ALICE	SPACER	MIAMI		58 56 doz
ALICE	SPACER	MIAMI		59 56 doz
ALICE	SPACER	MIAMI		60 56 doz
ALICE	SPACER	MIAMI		61 56 doz
ALICE	SPACER	MIAMI		62 56 doz
ALICE	SPACER	MIAMI		63 56 doz

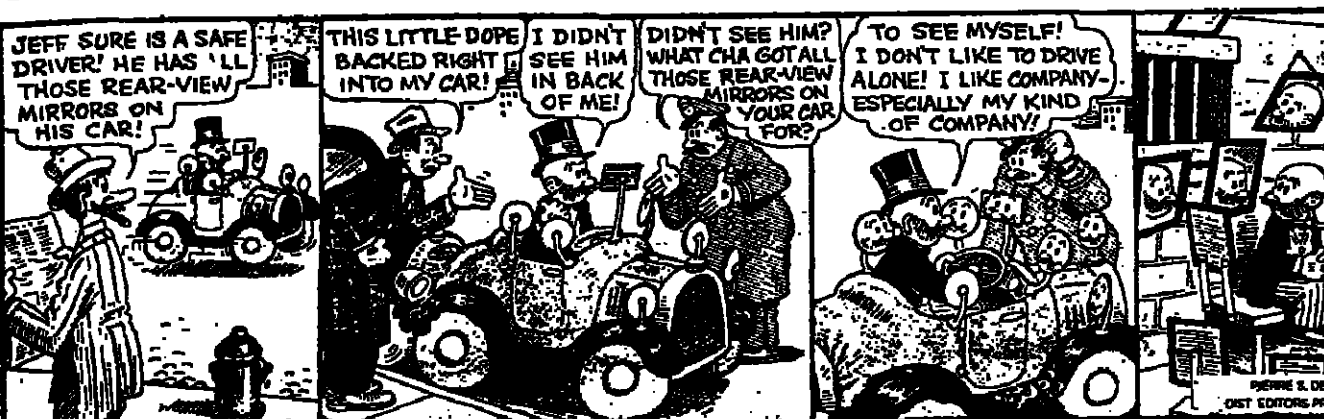
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



JORDAN FINANCIAL MARKET

HOUSING BANK OFFER: JORDAN - 1993/1994
TELEPHONE: 560170 / 663170
ORGANIZED MARKET SEATTLE PRICE LIST FOR TUESDAY, 20/04/1993

COMPANY'S NAME	TRADE VOLUME	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	OPENING CLOSING PRICE
ABU DHABI	25,490	133.500	133.500
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	17,121	4.900	4.900
ABU DHABI INVESTMENT BANK	29,982	24.800	24.800
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	22,624	1.880	1.880
THE JORDAN BANK	2,380	3.800	3.800
JORDAN BANK FOR SAVINGS & INVESTMENT	27,958	2.410	2.410
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	24,225	4.330	4.330
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	20,986	4.000	4.000
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	20,096	2.250	2.250
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	40,855	1.700	1.700
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	2,561	3.700	3.700
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	9,790	2.640	2.640
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	256,078	4.080	4.080
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	6,463	2.850	2.850
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	983	2.810	2.810
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	6,775	3.000	3.000
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	55,901	2.180	2.180
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	12,134	1.330	1.330
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	6,790	5.600	5.600
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	49,431	6.400	6.400
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	156,122	6.500	6.500
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	32,004	6.170	6.170
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	28,554	6.310	6.310
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	19,191	6.210	6.210
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	11,612	6.050	6.050
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	20,584	6.400	6.400
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	42,700	6.120	6.120
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	816,113	6.400	6.400
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	27,548	6.150	6.150
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	40,808	6.120	6.120
TOTAL	3,125,597		

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

U.S. \$1,000 costs	1.2540/65	Canadian dollar	1.5855/65
	1.5855/65	Deutsche marks	1.7805/15
	1.7805/15	Dutch guilders	1.4537/47
	1.4537/47	Swiss francs	32.62/60
	32.62/60	Belgian francs	5.3600/50
	5.3600/50	French francs	151.61/19
	151.61/19	Italian lire	110.53/58
	110.53/58	Japanese yen	7.3185/285
	7.3185/285	Swedish crowns	6.7100/200
	6.7100/200	Norwegian crowns	6.0750/850
	6.0750/850	Danish crowns	51.5510/20
One sterling	51.5510/20		
One ounce of gold	341.1034/1.60		

Israelis rocket 4 homes in Gaza

(Continued from page 1)

ing Abu Musa and the army closed the area to search for the other armed men, the reports said.

An army spokesman said that the army did not know of the death and that no shoot-outs were reported in the Gaza Strip. Israeli building contractors are meanwhile threatening an all-out strike if the government refuses to let at least 20,000 Palestinians into the country to work in the industry.

Some 70,000 Palestinians were employed on Israeli construction sites when Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin banned entry for Palestinians from the occupied territories at the end of March.

"Our industry has been totally paralysed, it's a catastrophe and we are going to have to lay off 1,500 Israeli engineers and workers in the coming days," Mordechai Yona, chairman of the contractors association, told Israel Radio Tuesday.

Mr. Yona said work at every site in the country would be halted if the government refused to take action.

The cabinet, saying the ban on Palestinians had improved security, rejected Sunday the contractors' call for special permits to be issued to building labourers.

"Our losses have already

reached 100 million shekels (\$36 million) since the closure," Mr. Yona said.

"If the government won't let the Palestinians come back then it must let us take on 10,000 to 15,000 foreign workers who could help train 20,000 to 30,000 Israelis," he added.

Since the closure, 8,000 to 9,000 Palestinians have been granted special permits enabling them to reach jobs in Israel, mainly to help bring in the harvest.

Meanwhile, parliament's finance committee approved Monday the first \$33.5 million of a \$50-million infrastructure project designed to create jobs in the occupied territories, where about 110,000 Palestinians have been thrown out of work by the travel ban.

Deputy Defence Minister Mordechai Gur said Tuesday an Arab agreement to resume peace talks would not end the three-week-old ban on Palestinians entering Israel.

"It is possible as a result of the atmosphere created at the peace talks that the 'music' could change somewhat, but to state as a value that essentially entry into the peace talks will bring an end to the closure is incorrect," Mr. Gur said.

"The essential measuring stick (for an end to the ban) is Israel's security," he told army radio.

Turks pay last respects to Ozal

(Continued from page 1)

Turkey to negotiate on their countries' war over the disputed enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh.

The late Turkish president had been a staunch supporter of Azerbaijan, often hinting in recent weeks that his country may formally become involved in the conflict. Turkey has strong cultural and ethnic ties to Azerbaijan.

Cyprus has sent condolences to Turkey over the death of Mr. Ozal, government spokesman Yannis Cassoulides.

But Cyprus will not be represented at the funeral "because Turkey does not recognise our government," he told his first press briefing after the Greek Orthodox Easter holiday weekend.

Turkey refuses to recognise the Cyprus government. It is the only state that has relations with the breakaway Turkish Cypriot state formed in north Cyprus after Turkish troops invaded in 1974.

Mr. Ozal's fatal heart attack set off a storm of speculation over the choice of a successor and possible changes in the Turkish political landscape.

The uncertainty caused renewed panic on the Istanbul stock exchange, driving the 75-

Saudi flotation resumes after cooling-off period

MANAMA (R) — Several Saudi Arabian companies are undertaking or considering public share offerings after a government-imposed cooling-off period earlier this year, company and financial sources said Tuesday.

The Saudi stock market sagged late last year under the weight of seven public share offerings in 1992 worth 8.3 billion riyals (\$2.2 billion).

Government officials said in November and December that except for the already-planned share offering of Saudi British Bank in February, no new offerings would be approved in the first months of 1993.

But the market has picked up again — the official index was 197.21 at the end of last week after a near-term low of 170.53 in December — and the authorities appear to believe investors would be able to absorb new offerings.

The authorities may also be trying to offer new investment outlets in Saudi Arabia as a means of keeping at home money that had been going abroad, lately to Japan.

"They may be trying to keep money in the kingdom," one banker said.

Three agricultural or develop-

ment Co., being set up to develop agriculture in southwest Saudi Arabia, is currently offering shares worth 165.2 million riyals (\$44 million).

The new Al Ahsa Development Co., planning various development projects in the Eastern Province, has won approval for 300 million riyals (\$80 million) of shares, almost two thirds of which is being subscribed by founder shareholders and the rest of which will be offered to the public.

The Riyadh Construction Co. has also won tentative approval for a share offering but no amount or date has been set.

In addition, Saudi Investment Bank has expressed an interest in raising its capital, possibly to double the current 90 million riyals (\$23 million).

Part of its capital increase may be through converting retained earnings, but bank officials have said they would also like to take advantage of the opportunity to raise new funds through a share offering.

The bank is majority-owned by Saudi investors and institutions, but also has foreign shareholders, including the Chase Manhattan Overseas Banking Corp. with 15 per cent.

The new flotations are relatively small by comparison with most of those last year, but they are at least a significant new beginning.

The Gaza Agricultural De-

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The Gaza Agricultural De-

Dollar slides further against yen

TOKYO (R) — Dollar-buying intervention by the Bank of Japan (BOJ) failed to stem the U.S. currency's slide Tuesday and it closed at a historic low of 110.25 yen.

Yen-induced worries also discouraged buyers on the Tokyo stock exchange, where the Nikkei share average closed below the 20,000 level for the first time since April 12, and other Asian share markets were also weak.

The dollar opened at 111.30 yen in Tokyo, after ending in New York at 111.10 Monday, and slid despite repeated rounds of BOJ intervention. It finished at 110.25 yen against New York's 1.5982.

The dollar's latest beating was sparked by U.S. President Bill Clinton's comment Friday that a strong yen would help correct the U.S. trade imbalance.

"The dollar is groping for its bottom against the yen," said a German bank dealer in Tokyo. "The nearest target will be the key 110 yen. Overseas operators are willing to test this level."

Tokyo dealers said the dollar could fall further, as other nations are unlikely to join concerted intervention with Japan.

"Other nations think the yen's current strength is desirable to trim the trade imbalance," said the German bank dealer. "Concerted intervention would be difficult."

European Commission Director General for External Economic Relations Horst Krenzler said in Tokyo the yen's strength was a welcome factor to lessen the trade imbalance between the European Community (EC) and Japan.

However, he refused to say whether the EC sought a further rise in the yen.

"It is a welcome factor, but it is only one factor among many," he told a news conference. However, many Japanese officials stressed they were committed to control the yen's movement.

Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa said joint intervention by Western countries to stop the yen's rise was desirable if possible, but added that, if the yen's appreciation is too rapid, Japan should intervene on its own.

OAU seeks more Gulf investments in African states

KUWAIT (R) — The Organisation of African Unity (OAU) said Monday the world's poorest continent sought more trade and investment links with the oil-rich Gulf but was handicapped by its disaster-prone image.

"There are many African countries where there are no conflicts, where economic development and reforms are being carried out," OAU Secretary General Salim Ahmad Salim told reporters during a visit to Kuwait.

"Therefore we expect that the investment on the part of the Gulf countries and the rest of the world will flow in these countries," he said.

Mr. Salim, who is on a tour of Gulf countries, said he discussed increased economic links in meetings with Kuwait's rulers.

"What I have discussed is the potential that there is if we are to make use of the resources that are available in the Gulf and the natural and human resources that prevail in Africa. A combination... can certainly work to the mutual benefit of the two communities," he pointed out.

Mr. Salim said he had given an example possible joint ventures in agriculture and cattle farming in East Africa.

Mr. Salim said he had no figures for trade between Africa and the Arab World but added Africa's international trade relied excessively on developed countries. He said trade between African countries was less than five per cent of the amount of Africa's trade with the rest of the world.

In answer to questions Mr. Salim said less than 10 of the OAU's 51-member states were experiencing serious instability.

"We understand that where there are conflicts and instability it is not possible to talk about investment on economic development," he said. "But it is not true that all of Africa is nothing but conflicts and disasters. A tiny percentage of Africa is bedevilled with those conflicts, less than 10 countries."

"There is a lot of scope for trade between our two areas and very little so far has been accomplished," he concluded.

Carbon tax to cost OPEC \$75b — report

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The proposed EC carbon tax would cost OPEC around \$75 billion, depressing demand for its oil by three million barrels per day (b/d) by the year 2005, an official Arab report said Monday.

"The carbon tax will hurt oil producers and discourage them from continuing investment to raise their output capacity," said the report, published in the United Arab Emirates newspaper Al Bayan.

"It will lead to a decline in OPEC's production by three million b/d and depress its cumulative oil earnings by \$75 billion by the year 2005."

The tax, which would add a further \$10 to the price of a barrel of oil by the year 2000, has already drawn sharp criticism from Gulf states and other oil producers, which fear it would reverse a projected rise in demand.

The European Community (EC) has said the tax aimed to protect the environment by containing the emission of carbon dioxide. But producers argue that EC governments only wanted to

heal their economies by heavier taxation.

At a conference in Oman last week, the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and independent producers decided to form a joint working group to study the effects of the tax.

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Arabs urged to press ahead with reforms

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The Arab League has urged its members to press ahead with economic reforms they launched four years ago to accelerate growth, boost revenue and tackle persistent deficits and debts.

In its 1992 report on the economy, the 21-member Arab League said reforms had started to produce results in Egypt and other Arab states where government control had previously hampered economic development.

It said the Gulf was created an additional burden on non-oil Arab nations as it forced them to increase spending to accommodate thousands of their expatriates who fled the wealthy Gulf.

"But thanks to the economic reforms and international aid, some countries succeeded in preventing a serious deterioration in their economic and social situation, especially Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco and Mauritania," said the report, published by the Abu Dhabi-based Arab Monetary Fund.

"This shows the importance of

pursuing such reform programmes with an emphasis on rationalising government expenditure and boosting revenue in order to cut the deficit, hasten growth and exploiting available resources," it added.

Most Arab states introduced reforms in 1989 after economic problems persisted although they have received more than \$350 billion in aid and remittances over the past 20 years.

The main problems are low investment and a debt of more than \$150 billion, for which they pay large sums in servicing. With the exception of oil producers, Arab states paid \$17 billion in debt servicing in 1991.

Another problem is the deficit in their trade and balance of payments.

While the six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries enjoyed a trade surplus of \$31 billion in 1991, the other Arab League members had a deficit of \$16 billion.

The combined budget deficit in non-oil states also jumped by 34

per cent in 1991 because of the war burden, according to the report.

But individually, some members have managed to contain their economic difficulties by stepping up reforms, it said. In Egypt, the financial situation improved and the budget deficit fell by 20 per cent in 1991.

"The main reasons for this include the introduction of a general tax on sales, raising the prices of power consumption and petroleum products and a series of fees on services," the report said.

In Jordan, which has a debt of \$6.6 billion, a persistent deficit turned into a surplus of around three per cent of the gross domestic product due to the reforms and efforts to contain the impact of the Gulf war.

Amman received aid of about \$1 billion in 1991 and managed to postpone debt servicing.

Tunisia was also in a better position after it managed to reduce spending.

Uganda seeks German advice on privatisation

KAMPALA (R) — Six Ugandan officials are visiting Germany to study ways of selling off loss-making public enterprises.

"We'd like to know how they've managed to sell off all those public enterprises so fast," said William Okecho, director of the Public Enterprises Reform and Divestiture (PERD), which runs Uganda's privatisation programme.

Some 20,000 public enterprises in the former East Germany have been privatised since 1990.

"Here we've been forced to be very alert on the political front and to move cautiously," Mr. Okecho said when the six-person mission flew to Germany Monday.

Out of more than 100 loss-making state corporations which have been put on sale in a seven-month-old programme, Uganda has managed to privatise a soft drinks bottler and a distillery.

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The Humanistic Care Foundation seeks the following personnel:
1. A nurse coordinator with a master's degree and two years clinical experience. A BSc. nurse with at least six years of acute setting experience will be considered.
2. A BSc. registered nurse with three years experience in an acute setting.
3. A secretary with command of word processing, filing use of fax machines. Experience in a medical environment is a plus. All applicants should demonstrate good command of Arabic and English.

Interested applicants, please submit your CVs by May 15 to: The Humanistic Care Society, C/O: GUVS, P.O.Box 910254 / Amman

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2. Good knowledge of English.
3. Pleasant character & appearance.
4. Excellent salary (according to qualifications).

Contact: Mr. Hassan Darwish, Tel.: 644028

TODAY AT

Cinema **PHILADELPHIA** Tel.: 634144

Gone With The Wind

Shows: 12:15, 4:00, 8:30

Cinema **PHILADELPHIA** Tel.: 634144

Gone With The Wind

Shows: 12:15, 4:00, 8:30

Cinema **CONCORD** Tel.: 677420

UNFORGIVEN

Shows: 3:30, 8:15, 10:30

WEEKEND AT BERNIES

Shows: 12:30, 8:15

Cinema **PLAZA** Tel.: 699238

Julia Roberts — in SLEEPING WITH THE ENEMY

Shows: 12:30, 3:05, 4:45, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

Nabil & Hisham's **AHLAN THEATRE** presents

Welcome Parliament and Budget
On Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 9:00 p.m.

Welcome New World Order
On Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 9:00 p.m.

Please make advance reservation

Croats, Muslims engaged in 'vicious' fighting in Bosnia

SARAJEVO (AFP) — Bosnian Croat forces and the mainly Muslim Bosnian army clashed Tuesday for the fifth straight day, with villages reported razed, local civilians and foreigners detained, and shells crashing down on major towns.

Hundreds of villagers, both Muslims and Croats, were reported to be fleeing.

U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) spokesman Barry Frewer described the fighting as "vicious."

Croat gunners were shelling the southern city of Mostar Tuesday with 120mm guns, the Bosnian army reported. Croatian forces denied the charge.

The Roman Catholic Croat forces and the mainly Muslim Bosnian army clashed earlier in the war in this former Yugoslav republic, which is now in its second year, but have been in uneasy alliance against Bosnian Serb forces, who are Orthodox, for some months.

No accurate casualty count is available for the latest fighting, which is taking place in the centre and south, blocking the aid convoys which keep tens of thousands of Bosnians alive.

Peter Kessler, a spokesman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, said supplies in Sarajevo were low, with little food in warehouses and relief flights bringing in only two-thirds of the food and other aid needed to keep the 280,000 people of the capital alive at subsistence level.

The flights are frequently halted for days at a time when they are considered too dangerous, and other towns around the

country depend on the road convoys and food dropped from aircraft.

Mostar, in the south of the country, has a Muslim majority population. It has heavily damaged by Bosnian Serb shelling earlier in the war.

Bosnian reports said Croat troops had set two Muslim villages in the area ablaze and burned a woman to death.

Jablanica, a strategic crossroads town between Sarajevo and Mostar, has also under steady Croat bombardment Tuesday, with mortars falling around the power plant, which also supplies the capital, the army said.

Another report said Croats had put the torch to the village of Gacice near the central town of Vitez, which was itself said to be under constant shelling.

Sarajevo Radio reported that Croat forces in the centre of the country had kidnapped "numerous foreign citizens."

The foreigners kidnapped included the drivers of stranded relief convoys, the radio said.

General Sefer Halilovic, the commander of the Bosnian army, met Monday with General Milivoj Petkovic, the commander of the Croat forces, in the Croatian town of Medugorje, half-way between Mostar and the Adriatic Sea, Sarajevo Radio reported.

Senior politicians from both sides also attended that meeting, and negotiations were continuing Tuesday.

Commander Frewer reported that both sides had expressed willingness to end the fighting, but were setting "many conditions."

Meanwhile the United Nations is seeking a three-day extension of a deadline for Muslim defenders of the eastern Bosnian town of Srebrenica to surrender their weapons to peacekeepers, U.N. officials said.

The original three-day deadline, incorporated in a ceasefire agreement signed Sunday as Serb attackers were poised to seize the town, expires Wednesday afternoon, 72 hours after the arrival of Canadian U.N. troops in Srebrenica Sunday.

The agreement obliges defending troops of the mainly Muslim Bosnian army within the enclave, where 30,000 civilians are trapped, to surrender their weapons to the U.N. troops.

Commander Frewer said the force was seeking a 72-hour extension beginning at 1200 (1000 GMT) Wednesday.

In Belgrade, UNPROFOR spokeswoman Araceli Santana said Muslims had started handing over their weapons in Srebrenica, but the operation was going very slowly.

She said the ceasefire in force since early Sunday had been breached by sporadic shelling until midnight Monday on the outskirts of the former silver mining town.

Ms Santana said 60 Canadian reinforcements and their armoured cars, stopped by Bosnian Serbs Monday from entering Srebrenica, were still negotiating their passage to join the 145 Canadians already there.

Serb commanders accused the Canadian troops of exceeding their mandate by carrying out reconnaissance missions near

Serb positions, the Tanjug News Agency said. The commanders lodged a formal protest with the U.N. force, it added.

Officials of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees said they had suspended convoys to Srebrenica, while waiting for Serbian guarantees on safety, after two truckdrivers were slightly injured in stone-throwing incidents in Serb-held areas.

Croatia's Serbs decided Tuesday to join their local assembly with the self-styled parliament set up by secessionist Serbs in Bosnia-Herzegovina as a first step toward linking up in a Greater Serbia.

The 207 representatives meeting in this town 110 kilometres east of Zagreb voted to approve the proposal to create the Union of Parliaments which was put forward by Nikola Koljevic, a close associate of Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic.

But they declined to take any vote on a ceasefire reached April 6 between the Croatian government and Serbian forces in the Krajina enclave of southern Croatia. The absence of action on the ceasefire, reached in Geneva under U.N. and EC mediation, was seen here as a rejection of the agreement.

NATO planes have seen the first confirmed violator of the U.N. no-fly zone over Bosnia, alliance sources said Tuesday.

Two U.S. F-15s sent to check a series of radar signals coming from unknown aircraft spotted a low-flying helicopter over the former Yugoslav republic Monday, they added.



ABKHAZIA FIGHTING: Two Abkhazian soldiers defend their position as Georgian National Guard members try to advance near Eschera, Monday. Fighting between Georgian and Abkhazian forces continues despite several attempts to stop the killing (AFP photo)

'Khmer Rouge preparing big attack'

PHNOM PENH (R) — The Khmer Rouge left the Cambodian capital last week because the radical group is preparing a big attack in the provinces and fears its officials will be held hostage, a Phnom Penh government spokesman said Tuesday.

The Khmer Rouge, which is refusing to abide by key elements of a Cambodian peace accord signed in Paris in 1991, evacuated its high-walled compound in Phnom Penh on April 13.

It had earlier sent a letter to head of state Prince Norodom Sihanouk saying party members

feared for their safety and would not return, even for meetings of the all-faction reconciliation body, the Supreme National Council (SNC).

"We don't think that this is true," Khieu Kanharith, spokesman for the State of Cambodia (SOC) and adviser to Prime Minister Hun Sen, said at a news conference.

He said that if the Khmer Rouge was really worried about security it could have asked for protection from the peacekeeping U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC).

"The most important reason is

the Khmer Rouge are preparing to launch some major attack on our position," Khieu Kanharith said.

The Khmer Rouge and the SOC are two of four warring factions which signed the Paris accord. The Khmer Rouge has refused to implement the accords fully and its forces have frequently clashed with the SOC.

Khieu Kanharith said he had no hard evidence to back up his statement, but linked it to an attack Monday on government forces in the village of New Orail in Kompong Speu province, which he called a "distraction".

ANC kicks off 6 weeks of civil disobedience

JOHANNESBURG (Agencies) — After a week of mourning black leader Chris Hani, the African National Congress (ANC) Tuesday kicked off a civil disobedience campaign to pressure Pretoria to speed up democracy talks.

For the next six weeks, ANC supporters country-wide will take to the streets and hold protests, consumer boycotts and pickets, although exact details of the "mass action campaign" have yet to be announced.

Coming after a turbulent week since Mr. Hani's assassination on April 10 and two days of work stoppages to mourn him, the government and business leaders have condemned the campaign.

"Mass action will not defuse tension or anger. It will release further undermine... confidence in our economy," President F.W. de Klerk warned Monday.

Up to 90 per cent of the black work force downed tools Monday in a massive show of force that saw some 100,000 people travel from all over South Africa to pack a Soweto stadium for Mr. Hani's funeral.

Political analyst Professor Robert Schrire of the University

of Cape Town said it was this sheer "black power" rather than the civil disobedience campaign, that would see the ANC return triumphantly to multi-party democracy talks next Monday in Johannesburg.

"The most important thing about the funeral yesterday was that the reality of black power was brought home to all whites that never again can they go back to the repressive measures of the past, such as declaring a state of emergency."

"The ANC will return to negotiations with a strengthened hand and Mr. de Klerk will return weakened," Prof. Schrire said.

Mr. de Klerk deployed 23,000 troops to protect whites after Mr. Hani's assassination, allegedly by a white right-winger, and hinted at further action if protests spun out of control.

Meanwhile news reports said Tuesday more arrests are imminent in connection with the killing of Mr. Hani and right-wing leaders may be involved.

Calm was reported across the country Tuesday after scattered violence flared the day before as Mr. Hani was buried. Millions of black workers returned to work Tuesday after a one-day strike to mourn Mr. Hani.

Members and parliamentarians of the pro-apartheid Conservative Party were under investigation in connection with Mr. Hani's killing, South African newspapers reported, citing police sources.

A top Conservative Party leader, Clive Derby-Lewis, was arrested Saturday in connection with Mr. Hani's killing. Police declined to give details on why Mr. Derby-Lewis was being held or to comment on the news reports.

At least 26 people were killed Monday and Sunday night, nearly all in Johannesburg's black townships, including two people whose charred bodies were found in a house near the stadium where Mr. Hani's funeral was held.

Reaction to the death of one of the country's major black leaders has been fairly restrained. Violence has been confined to a few areas with relatively few deaths in a country where dozens die monthly in political violence.

Government and ANC leaders have appealed for calm and said crucial talks on ending apartheid must not be derailed. Much of the violence was by black and white extremists.

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Parents in 'home alone' case reach plea agreement

GENEVA, Ill. (AP) — The couple accused of leaving their two young children alone at home while they went on a vacation to Mexico agreed to plead guilty Monday to contributing to the neglect of a child. David and Sharon Schoo's daughters, now in state-supervised foster care, could be back in the their parents' custody within "a couple of months," Defence Attorney Gerard Kepple said after a hearing in Kane County Circuit Court, Nicole, 10, and Diana, 7, will visit their parents within a week and make overnight and weekend visits before being permanently returned home, he said. Under the plea agreement, the Schoos will each be sentenced to two years of probation and will perform 200 hours of community service, assistant state attorney John Barsanti said. The couple thus avoided being tried on 64 counts, including neglect of children, endangering the life of a child, aggravated battery, abandonment, cruelty to children and unlawful possession of marijuana. Mr. Barsanti said the Schoos' activities will be limited, and they will be monitored electronically at home. They will be free to go to work, counseling or their community service work.

Prince Charles revisits island hit by oil spill

LONDON (AP) — Prince Charles kept a promise Monday when he returned to the Shetland Islands to see how islanders are coping with the aftermath of an oil spill. Three months after he and his father, Prince Philip, watched the tanker Braer break apart in violent weather, fish farmers told Prince Charles the spill is still affecting their daily lives and business. A quarter of Shetland's Salmon farms were contaminated by the 24.6 million gallons (93 million litres) of crude that gushed into the North Sea. So far, 500,000 fish have been destroyed. To guarantee that no contaminated fish leaves the Shetland Islands, farmed fish and commercial catches are tested at the North Atlantic Fisheries College in the village of Scalloway. "It tastes just like salmon," Prince Charles said, trying a sample at the college. "It needs a dash of mayonnaise." The salmon he tried came from a fish farm outside the 1,300-square kilometre exclusion zone set up after the oil spill. "Our message is that we have the finest quality control system in the world," said Chris Young, chairman of the Shetland Salmon Farmers' Association. He stressed that 75 per cent of the islands' salmon farms were unaffected in the disaster.

Gold coins, amnesty for Japan imperial wedding

TOKYO (R) — Japan will issue gold coins and declare a general amnesty to commemorate the wedding of Crown Prince Naruhito and former career diplomat Masako Owada, government officials said Monday. Two million 18-gram gold coins, with a face value of 50,000 yen (\$455), are to be minted in September three months after the wedding on June 9. Finance Ministry officials said. The coins will be engraved with a pair of flying cranes on one side and Japan's imperial seal, a 16-petal chrysanthemum, on the other. Smaller silver coins, with a face value of 5,000 yen (\$45), and copper 500-yen (\$4.5) coins will be issued in June. The government is expected to declare the wedding day a national holiday and grant a general amnesty to millions of petty offenders, Justice Minister Masaharu Gonoda said. Election law offenders were likely to see their civic rights restored in the amnesty, Japanese newspaper said.

China's witch doctors outnumber regular healers

PEKING (R) — China has 1.8 million with doctors ministering to rural peasants' mental illnesses, outnumbering the nation's regular physicians, according to a survey. The information emerged from a 10-year investigation carried out by Li Shengzhan, director of the Mental Health Research Institute of Xia City, Hubei province, according to the April 17 edition of the Shaanxi Daily newspaper. "The survey gives the surprising information that in rural China, one-quarter of mental patients consult with doctors instead of medical practitioners," the newspaper said. Most of China's 1.12 billion people live in the countryside.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Vessey has doubts about PoW document

HANOI (AP) — President Bill Clinton's envoy said Monday testimony from a retired Vietnamese general casts doubt on a Russian document said to show North Vietnam held hundreds of unreported U.S. prisoners of war in 1973. Retired General John Vessey, ending a two-day visit to Hanoi, said he was not ready to decide the authenticity of the report that the Vietnamese government rejects as untrue. But Gen. Vessey said he had more doubts after talking to retired General Tran Van Quang. The Russian document purports to be a translation of a report by Gen. Quang indicating North Vietnam held 1,205 U.S. POWs in 1972 at a time when it said it held only 368. The document was released by Harvard University researcher Steven Morris, a longtime critic of Vietnam's Communist government. "I don't think that one can draw a conclusion about the document based simply on Gen. Quang's statement," Gen. Vessey said. "But I would say that what Gen. Quang has told us is not inconsistent with what we knew... about Gen. Quang at the time, and I have no reason to disbelieve Gen. Quang."

Azeris, Armenians cease fire in Karabakh

MOSCOW (AFP) — Azerbaijan and Armenian forces in Nagorno-Karabakh implemented a ceasefire Tuesday as a team of international observers arrived in the disputed enclave, the Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry said. Afghan Mamedov, a senior ministry official in Baku, told AFP by telephone that the ceasefire came into effect at midnight (2000 GMT Monday) and was still holding Tuesday afternoon. A 10-member military delegation from the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) was in the enclave Tuesday to negotiate the arrival of an observer team with the warring parties, he said. The team, led by a Finnish colonel, travelled early Tuesday to Agdam, just outside the eastern edge of the enclave, where Azerbaijani forces involved in the fighting are headquartered, the ministry said. The CSCE group was also scheduled to visit the Azerbaijani region of Kelbadzhar which Armenian forces seized in fighting earlier this month, it said. The Armenian forces launched a major offensive early this month to broaden a land corridor between Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh, whose Armenian majority population has been fighting for five years to break away from the Muslim-dominated government in Baku.

China, U.K. seek Hong Kong compromise

HONG KONG (R) — China and Britain will attempt the seemingly impossible in Hong Kong talks this week — to reconcile Governor Chris Patten's vision of a robust legislature with Peking's love of well-behaved, rubber stamp assemblies. Local opinion is sharply divided over whether the talks on Hong Kong's democratic future, opening in Peking Thursday, will be futile and if not, which side will climb down. Pro-democracy liberals suspect Britain, which hands back its last major colony to China in 1997, will revert to its old habit of crumbling under Peking's pressure. Other analysts fear the talks on 1995 elections, the last under British rule, will collapse and Mr. Patten will ignore Peking's wrath by going it alone with his own reforms.

Gore: Poland key to reform success

WARSAW (R) — U.S. Vice President Al Gore said Tuesday Poland's economic and political reforms were an example for other Eastern European nations struggling to define their post-Communist identities. Speaking in the Polish parliament, Mr. Gore said Poland's resolve to seek a democratic state stood in stark contrast to the ethnic and political strife in the former Yugoslavia. Mr. Gore arrived in Poland Monday to take part in the biggest commemoration of a World War II Jewish uprising against the Nazis in the Warsaw ghetto. Mr. Gore told an audience of politicians and intellectuals in parliament Poland's post-Communist example could inspire other less advanced reformers in the region. The day-long ghetto commemoration was jointly organized by Poland and Israel to try to improve long-strained relations between the two nations. On Monday, Polish and Jewish leaders said they wanted to further the difficult reconciliation between their nations in an emotional commemoration event in front of the huge monument to the ghetto fighters. Poland had Europe's largest Jewish community — three million — before it was virtually wiped out by the Nazis following their invasion in 1939.

Trial opens of last E. German premier

DRESDEN, Germany (AFP) — East Germany's last Communist Prime Minister Hans Modrow, 65, went on trial here Tuesday for allegedly rigging 1989 municipal elections when he was the powerful regional party chief for Dresden. The Communists officially won almost 98 per cent of the vote that May. Within a few months, widespread popular discontent had breached the Berlin Wall. Mr. Modrow accuses the legal authorities of mounting a political trial. Mr. Modrow was for a few months premier of a transitional government, until the east's first free general election in March 1990. He currently holds a parliamentary seat for the Party of Democratic Socialism, the successor to the Communists.

Yeltsin orders police to guard polling places

MOSCOW (Agencies) — President Boris Yeltsin Monday ordered police to guard polling places during Sunday's nationwide referendum on his leadership to ensure that the balloting is carried out.

Mr. Yeltsin's foreign minister, meanwhile, warned that if Mr. Yeltsin loses the referendum, Russia could be plunged into a crisis worse than that plaguing Yugoslavia.

The president's press office said he was ordering Interior Ministry police to guard polling stations and election commission offices so that political groups do not try to disrupt the voting.

"To maintain law and order on referendum day, a constant presence of Interior Ministry officers at balloting stations and commission offices is required," Mr. Yeltsin's press office quoted the order as saying. "Any illegal actions are to be reported to the president's administration and prosecutor's office."

Some regional officials across Russia have opposed the referendum, saying that it could be

divisive. Mr. Yeltsin's order appears to be a move to ensure that voting takes place in those regions where local officials may be less-than-enthusiastic about holding the referendum.

Mr. Yeltsin called the referendum to settle his power struggle with Russia's Communist-dominated parliament.

Russians will decide Sunday whether they have confidence in Mr. Yeltsin's leadership. But hardliners in the legislature also added other questions to the ballot: Whether voters approve of Mr. Yeltsin's economic policies and whether they want new presidential and parliamentary elections.

While Mr. Yeltsin remains popular, his free-market reforms are not. Many voters are likely to say they do not support his reforms, which have brought skyrocketing inflation and falling living standards.

Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev told reporters Monday that a vote against Mr. Yeltsin would lead to "a repetition of the Yugoslav variant."

U.S. cult leader, followers commit mass suicide

WACO, Texas (R) — U.S. cult leader David Koresh and more than 80 followers committed mass suicide in an apocalyptic inferno after federal agents attacked his fortress compound with tanks and tear gas, officials said.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) said Mr. Koresh, who claimed he was the incarnation of Jesus and in personal contact with God, ordered his followers to set ablaze his heavily armed compound to fulfil his vision of armageddon, the Biblical last battle before the world ends.

The flames that turned the sprawling compound of the Branch Davidian sect into a blazing funeral pyre also ignited a major controversy over the decision by President Bill Clinton's administration to try to end the 51-day siege.

Attorney General Janet Reno said early Tuesday she was prepared to resign to take complete responsibility for the decision to attack the compound near Waco, Texas.

"If that's what the president wants, I'm happy to do so," she said on television. But Ms. Reno, sworn in as the nation's top law enforcement official on March 12, defended her action in seeking to step up pressure on the compound.

Mr. Clinton said Monday he had approved the strategy developed by law enforcement officials and put before him by Ms. Reno Sunday.

"I told the attorney general to do what she thought was right, and I stand by that decision," said Mr. Clinton, who gave the green light during a telephone conversation with Ms. Reno.

Among those believed dead in the inferno were Mr. Koresh, his chief aides, his wives and 17 children all believed to have been fathered by the 33-year-old cult leader.

Only nine of the estimated 95 people inside the isolated compound in farmland 16 kilometres east of Waco survived.

They included a woman in flames who tried to run back into one of the burning buildings but was stopped by a federal agent, who jumped out of a tank to rescue her.

Bob Ricks, leader of the FBI team on the scene, said he gave the order for agents to use tanks to ram holes in buildings and fire teargas inside in hopes that the cult members would surrender peacefully.

Mr. Ricks said it was possible that Mr. Koresh arranged for the

children to be given injections to put them to sleep before they were burned alive.

"His (Koresh's) desire... was that he wanted to have as many people killed in that compound as possible. That is why it was named the 'ranch apocalypse'."

Mr. Ricks said, adding that Mr. Koresh also wanted to kill as many federal agents as possible.

Mr. Ricks said one survivor told the FBI an exultant cry of "the fire has been lit, the fire has been lit" rang through the building as it went up in flames.

The tragic outcome is certain to haunt the Clinton administration for weeks to come.

Mr. Koresh's lawyer, Dick DeGuerin, told a news conference that he blamed the FBI for the tragedy, saying that if they had not attacked, Mr. Koresh would have left the compound peacefully.

Several senators promised hearings and a group of left-winger picketed FBI headquarters in New York, calling the FBI murderers. Ms. Reno said she would welcome a review of the government's handling of the case.

Mr. Ricks said the FBI acted as it did because it believed Mr. Koresh was preparing for an armed confrontation.

He said the FBI hoped that once the teargas permeated the compound, the women inside would race out with their children. Instead the children were kept in an upstairs bunker and died.

Mr. Ricks insisted that the mass suicide was what Mr. Koresh — a religious fanatic who believed he was the messiah — came to warn the world that the end was near — always wanted.

The horrific end to the Waco saga called to mind the 1978 Jonestown mass suicide involving more than 800 people who took poison and died at a cult centre in the jungles of Guyana.



David Koresh

now" message had attracted a international following of Britons, New Zealanders, Australians, Filipinos and Israelis as well as Americans.

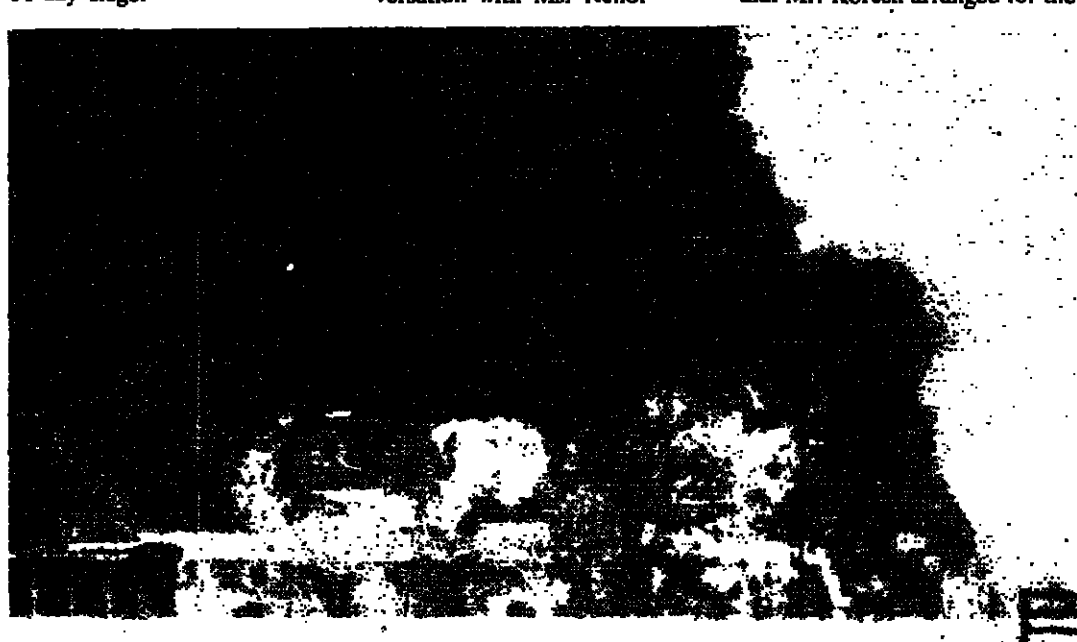
Of the nine cult members known to have survived Monday's fiery end, four were being treated at area hospitals, while the other five — including two Britons and an Australian — were being held as material witnesses in the county jail.

The siege at the compound began on Feb. 28 when four federal agents were killed in a shoot-out with the Branch Davidian cult. Mr. Koresh was wounded and six of his followers were killed in the raid to confiscate weapons the cult had been stockpiling.

Mr. Ricks said four explosions were heard inside the buildings as the fire spread. Mr. Koresh and his followers had storerooms filled with weapons, ammunition and explosives.

Mr. Ricks said 70 to 80 rounds of gunfire were fired from the compound at FBI agents during the first incursion against the building shortly before sunrise.

The agents did not return fire. Agents were met with additional rounds of fire each time the boom of a tank gun made a hole in the buildings through which to fire the gas, the FBI said.



The Branch Davidian cult compound near Waco burns Monday. The fire apparently started inside

the compound several hours after federal agents began pumping tear gas into the headquarters of the cult lead by David Koresh (AFP photo)